W64/10

BLM INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

FINAL DECISION on Wilderness Study Areas

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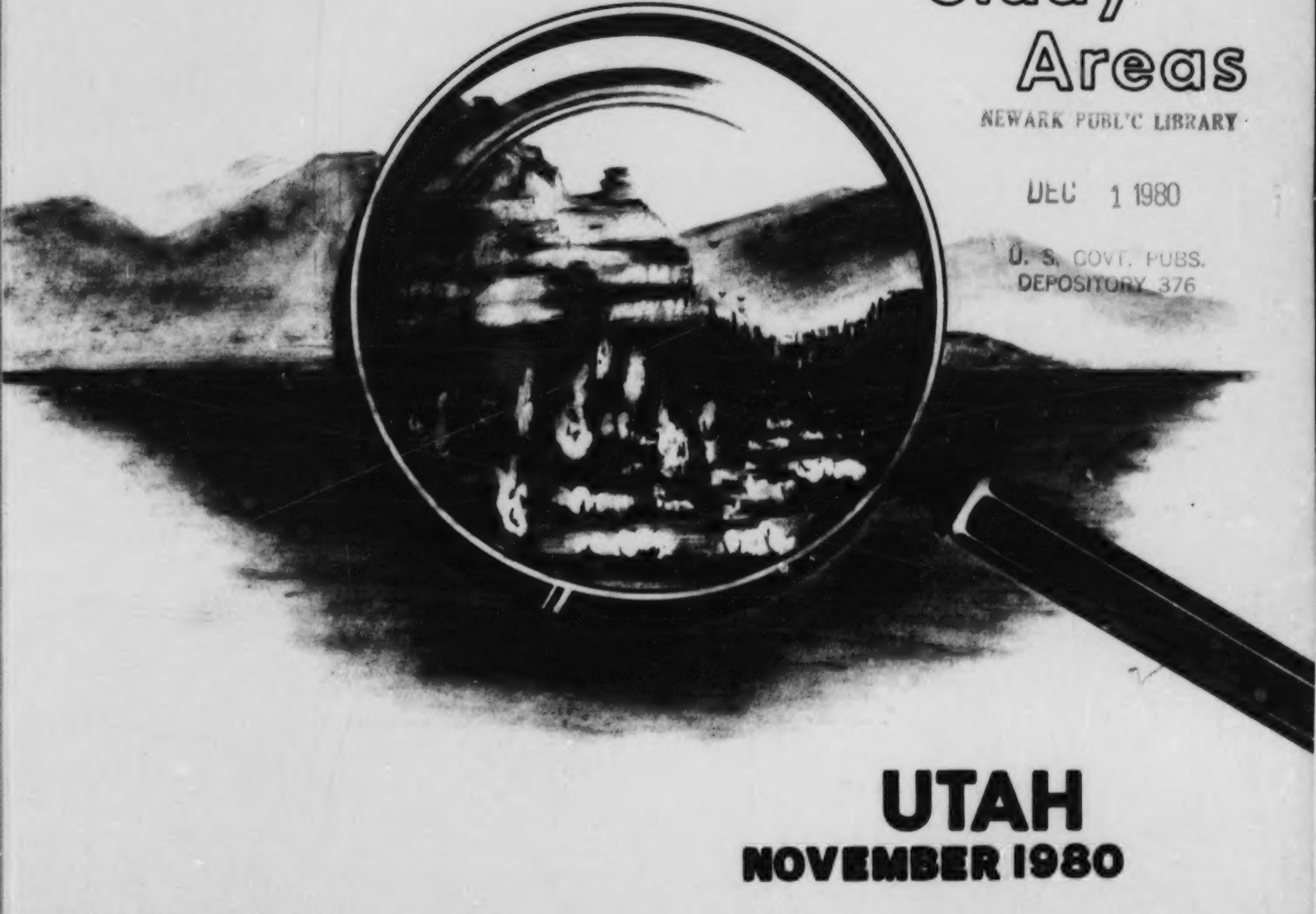

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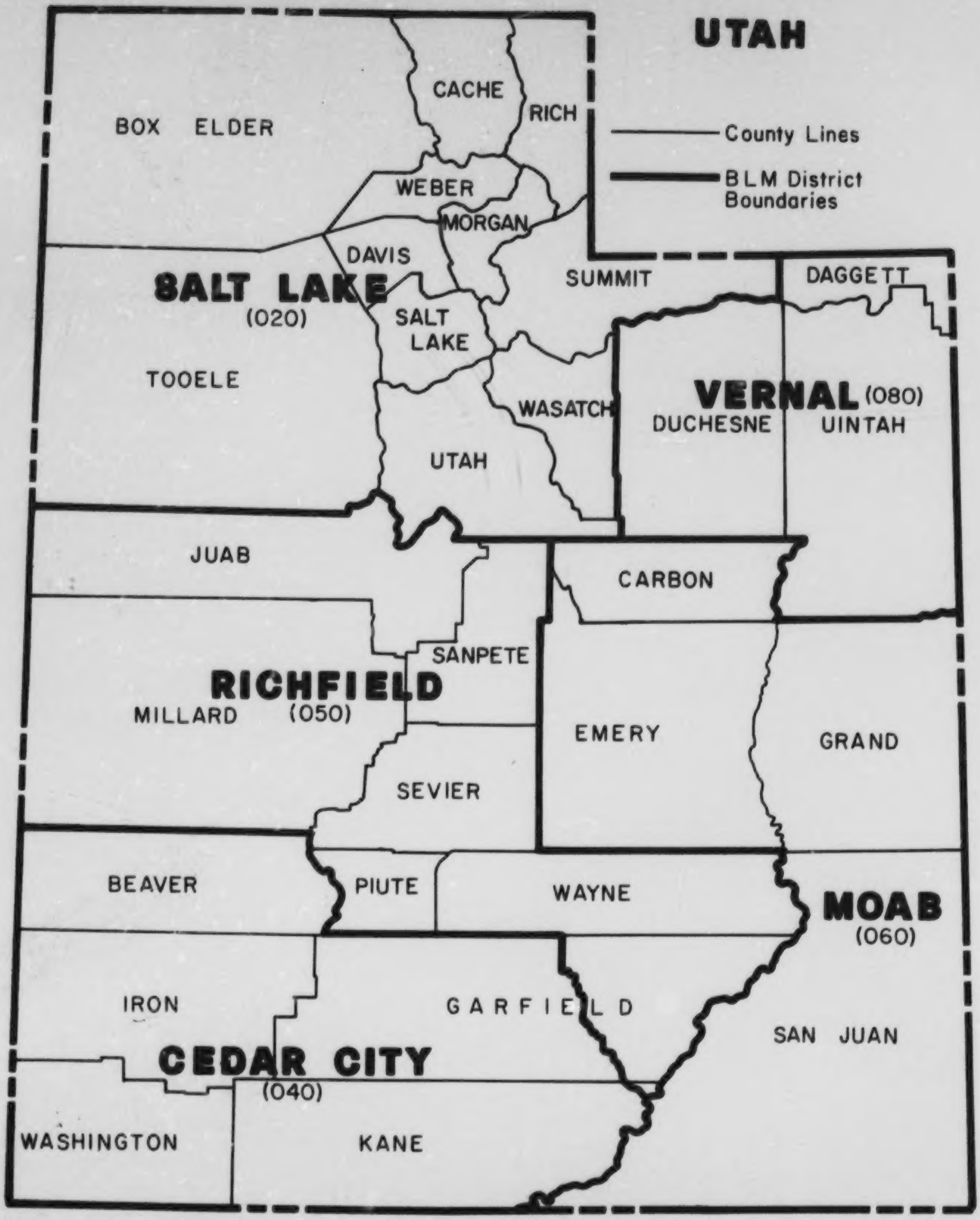
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NOV

Dear Public Land User:

This booklet contains my decisions on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Utah. Each of the units involved in this inventory is discussed individually in the summary booklet. The booklet contains only the summaries of information on each unit. If more detailed information is desired, you may review the individual unit files retained at the appropriate district office.

You will note that changes have taken place in a number of the units. These changes are results of information received during the 90-day comment period. Wherever possible, the information received was verified and adjustments made where appropriate. The comments played a significant role in making the determinations on what unit or portions of a unit should or should not be established as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA), where changes were made from the original proposal.

One issue surfaced during the comment period which should be clarified concerning the determination of "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation" in the inventory process. Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 directs the Bureau to determine, as part of the inventory process, what public lands have all of the wilderness characteristics (criteria) as described in the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964. These lands are then identified as WSA's and will be reported to Congress. The Wilderness Act lists the criteria which must be present in an area for it to be qualified as Wilderness. Each such area must meet all of the criteria, as specified. These criteria are:

> The area must: "(1) Generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) have outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value." (Emphasis added)

It is clear that Congress intended that the "Outstanding" criteria be applied; therefore, a determination must be made as to what areas do or do not have "outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive

and unconfined recreation." The question is not simply whether opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation exist. The question is whether these opportunities are "outstanding." This criterion is the most subjective of those used in this phase of the wilderness review, and not surprisingly, public comments provided many differing views, pro and con, when discussing the same unit. I have reviewed these public comments at length, utilized other information available, visited the key sites where this criterion was in question, and spent considerable time discussing field office recommendations. Ultimately, however, the decision represents a judgement made without the benefit of objective standards.

Each of the areas as shown on the statewide map is established as a Wilderness Study Area. Following this decision, the next phase of the wilderness review will begin. That phase is known as the "Study Phase" in which all resources and activities will be evaluated and considered in relation to each other. If an area is reported as "suitable," a minerals survey report on the area will accompany the recommendation. As a result of this study, a recommendation of suitable or non-suitable on each area will be developed and forwarded to the Secretary of Interior who will in turn submit it to the President and to the Congress. Only Congress can designate an area as wilderness. Throughout the study and reporting phases of the process, the public will have the opportunity to participate. As recommendations are developed, an environmental impact statement will be prepared covering various alternatives.

On the following pages you will find a summary of comments that were submitted. In each individual unit write-up you will find a rationale and an explanation of how the comments affected the proposed decision. Over 2,000 comments were submitted, some providing very specific information while others were very general in nature. One letter providing specific information could have changed the proposed decision. Those letters providing no information on WSA criteria, or which were general in nature, did not affect the proposed decision as published on April 2, 1980. A number of comments were received after the close of the comment period. Where time permitted, we did analyze them along with the rest of the public responses. In those cases where time did not permit us to do this, we have retained the comments on file for review during the WSA analysis process.

I extend my sincere appreciation to those individuals, organizations, public agencies, and companies who have participated in the BLM's wilderness review program inventory to date and who have supplied information regarding the wilderness characteristics. I appreciate your efforts and request your continued help as we enter into the Study Phase and on through the rest of the wilderness review process.

Sincerely yours,

Gary J. Wicks

State Director

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Summary of Public Comments
(Includes Comments on Instant Study Areas)

Salt Lake District

Received 105 comments by personal letters, public comment forms and at public sessions. Submissions were by individuals, environmental groups, industry, local government, and state government. Utahns submitted 70 comments while 35 were from out-of-state.

Cedar City District

Received 807 comments by personal letters and public comments forms. Submissions were by individuals, environmental groups, industry, local government, state government, and federal agencies. Utahns submitted 691 comments while 116 were from out-of-state.

Richfield

Received 372 comments by personal letters and public comment forms. Submissions were by individuals, environmental groups, industry, local government, and state government. Utahns submitted 236 comments while 136 were from out-of-state.

Moab District

Received 1,337 comments by personal letters, form letters and public comment forms. Submissions were by individuals, environmental groups, industry, local government, state government, Western Association of Land Users and a rock hounding group. Utahns submitted 900 comments while 437 were from out-of-state.

Vernal District

Received 131 comments by personal letters, form letters, public comment forms, meetings and phone calls. Submissions were by individuals, environmental groups, industry, local government, state government and federal agencies. Utahns submitted 64 comments while 67 were from out-of-state.

Utah Total

Salt Lake	Cedar City	Richfield	Moab	Vernal	Total
105	807	372	1,337	131	2,752

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STATE WIDE SUMMARY

	TOTAL UNIT ACREAGE	ACREAGE WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ACREAGE LACKING WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS
Intensive Inventory	5,073,486	1,899,055	3,174,431
ISA's	287,265	248,048	39,217
Previously Identified WSA's		312,593	
Under Protest or Appeal	565,984		

SUMMARY OF INTENSIVE INVENTORY

DISTRICT	TOTAL UNIT ACREAGE	ACREAGE WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ACREAGE LACKING WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS
Salt Lake District	648,520	64,573	583,947
Cedar City District	1,402,048	570,027	832,021
Richfield District	1,016,952	357,620	659,332
Moab District	1,756,212	899,705	856,507
Vernal District	249,754	7,130	242,624
Total	5,073,486	1,899,055	3,174,431

SUMMARY OF ISA's UNDER INVENTORY

DISTRICT	TOTAL UNIT ACREAGE	ISA ACREAGE WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ACREAGE LACKING WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS
Salt Lake District	0	0	0
Cedar City District	202,433	163,216	39,217
Richfield District	0	0	0
Moab District	84,832	84,832	0
Vernal District	0	0	0
Total	287,265	248,048	39,217

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED WSA's

DISTRICT	ACREAGE WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS
Salt Lake District	68,910 1/
Cedar City District	51,943
Richfield District	191,740
Moab District	0
Vernal District	0
Total	312,593

SUMMARY OF UNITS UNDER PROTEST OR APPEAL 2/

UNIT NO.	UNIT ACREAGE
UT-020-001	1,332
UT-050-233	67,605
UT-050-236	289,120
UT-060-007	150,930
UT-060-011	20,405
UT-060-012	35,160
Link Flats ISA	792
Devils Garden ISA	640
Total	565,984

1/ Includes all of the Deep Creek Mtns. Unit (UT-020-060/UT-050-020)
2/ These units will remain under management restrictions imposed by Section 603 of FLPMA pending disposition of protest or appeal.

INTENSIVE INVENTORY UNIT SUMMARY

Inventory Unit No.	Unit Name	WSA Acreage	Unit Acreage (Total)	Lacking Wilderness Characteristics
Salt Lake District				
UT-020-001 NV-010-164 ID-202-001	Little Goose Creek #1*	0	1,332 - Utah 11,350 - Total	1,332 - Utah 11,350 - Total
UT-020-011 NV-010-160	Wagon Box Pass *	0	2,294 - Utah	2,294 - Utah
UT-020-012 NV-010-160A	Wagon Box Pass*	0	2,569 - Utah 21,193 - Total	2,569 - Utah 21,193 - Total
UT-020-037	New Foundland Mtns.	0	23,266	23,266
UT-020-040A	Silver Island Mtns.	0	16,510	16,510
UT-020-040B	Silver Island Mtns.	0	25,041	25,041
UT-020-040C	Silver Island Mtns.	0	6,755	6,755
UT-020-042	North Salt Deseret	0	376,168	376,168
UT-020-044	Ferber Wash*	0	3,774 - Utah	3,774 - Utah
UT-020-046 NV-010-062	Utah Peak*	0	3,913 - Utah	3,913 - Utah
UT-020-047 NV-010-062	Utah Peak*	0	483 - Utah 7,040 - Total	483 - Utah 7,040 - Total
UT-020-050 NV-010-061	Ferber Flat*	0	6,379 - Utah 10,240 - Total	6,379 - Utah 10,240 - Total
UT-020-053 NV-040-001	Northeast Corner*	0	274 - Utah	274 - Utah

UT-020-054 NV-040-001	Northeast Corner*	0	146 - Utah	146 - Utah
UT-020-057 NV-040-001	Northeast Corner*	0	287 - Utah 27,400 - Total	287 - Total 27,400 - Total
UT-020-087	North Cedar Mtns.	0	16,089	16,089
UT-020-089	North Stansbury Mtns.	10,480	10,480	0
UT-020-094	Cedar Mtns.	50,500	63,610	13,110
UT-020-101	Big Creek	0	3,941	3,941
UT-020-102	Dry Canyon	0	960	960
UT-020-105	Big Hollow	3,593	3,593	0
UT-020-111	Onaqui Mtns.	0	60,018	60,018
UT-020-129	Dugway Mtns.	0	20,638	20,638
UT-050-020 UT-020-060	Deep Creek Mtns.	68,910(Total)	157,447(Total)	
Cedar City District				
UT-040-041B	Black Ridge-LaVerkin Creek	0	15,668	15,668
UT-040-061	Steep Creek	22,034	24,391	2,357
UT-040-074	Colt Mesa	0	19,920	19,920
UT-040-075	Horse Spring Canyon	0	32,203	32,203
UT-040-076	Carcass Canyon	46,711	76,410	29,699
UT-040-077	Mud Spring Canyon	38,075	65,010	26,935
UT-040-078	Death Ridge	0	65,040	65,040
UT-040-079	Burning Hills	0	70,080	70,080

UT-040-080	Fifty Mile Mtn.	146,143	178,008	31,865
UT-040-081	Allen Dump	0	23,028	23,028
UT-040-082	Scorpion	35,884	45,803	9,919
UT-040-085	Dance Hall Rock	0	6,972	6,972
UT-040-087	Sooner Water	0	123	123
UT-040-088	Sooner Bench	0	142	142
UT-040-089	Willow Gulch	0	259	259
UT-040-090	Cove Point	0	5,142	5,142
UT-040-091	Fifty Mile Creek	0	125	125
UT-040-092	Coyote Gulch	0	30	30
UT-040-104	Mtn. Home Range	0	19,019	19,019
UT-040-132	Red Mtn.	18,250	20,260	2,010
UT-040-134 AZ-010-073	Quail Draw*	0	2,635 - Utah 22,540 - Total	2,635 -Total 22,540 -Total
UT-040-135 AZ-010-072	East Mesa*	0	6,225 - Total 35,511 - Total	6,225 - Utah 35,511- Total
Ut-040-137 AZ-010-069	Canaan Gap*	0	300 - Utah 23,250 - Total	300 - Utah 23,250- Total
UT-040-138 AZ-010-071	Cottonwood Canyon*	0	14,396 - Utah 55,868 - Total	14,396 - Utah 55,868 - Total
UT-040-142	Crater Hill	0	2,149	2,149
UT-040-143 AZ-010-041	Canaan Mtn.*	47,170- Utah 53,619 -Total	62,710- Utah 69,500 - Utah	15,540 - Utah 15,881 - Total
UT-040-144	Shunes Hollow	0	1,220	1,220
UT-040-145	Orderville Canyon	1,750	5,080	3,330

UT-040-146	Deep Creek	3,320	7,070	3,750
UT-040-147	Red Butte	804	804	0
UT-040-148	Spring Canyon	4,433	4,433	0
UT-040-149	The Watchman	600	640	40
UT-040-150	North Fork Virgin River	1,040	1,040	0
UT-040-153	LaVerkin Creek Canyon	567	567	0
UT-040-154	Taylor Creek Canyon	35	75	40
UT-040-155	Sunset Canyon	0	2,220	2,220
UT-040-173	Shunesburg	0	80	80
UT-040-174	Jolley Gulch	0	160	160
UT-040-175	Home Valley Knoll	0	80	80
UT-040-176	Goose Creek Canyon	89	120	31
UT-040-177	Beartrap Canyon	40	40	0
UT-040-179	Rockville Bench	0	320	320
UT-040-204B	Central Wah Wah Range	0	37,238	37,238
UT-040-216 NV-040-202	White Rock Range*	2,600 - Utah 23,300 - Total	6,429 - Utah 39,800 - Total	3,829 - Utah 16,500 - Total
UT-040-217	Moquith Mtn.	14,830	15,650	820
UT-040-218 AZ-010-040	Bull Pasture	0	5,668 - Utah 16,702 - Total	5,668 - Utah 16,702 - Total
UT-040-219 AZ-010-027	Shinarump Cliffs *	0	537 - Utah 14,233 - Total	537 - Utah 14,233 - Total

UT-040-223 AZ-010-026	Muggins Flat *	0	9,308 - Utah 23,158 - Total	9,308 - Utah 23,158 - Total
UT-040-224 AZ-010-023	Pasture Canyon *	0	437 - Utah 14,287 - Total	437 - Utah 14,287 - Total
UT-040-226 AZ-010-023	Buckskin Mtns *	0	3,328 - Utah 12,398 - Total	3,328 - Utah 12,398 - Total
UT-040-230	Parunuweap Canyon	30,800	47,696	16,896
UT 040-235	Flood Canyon	0	29,709	29,709
UT-040-245	Brigham Plains	0	16,500	16,500
UT-040-246	Nephi Wash	0	13,350	13,350
UT-040-247	Paria-Hackberry	135,822	196,431	60,609
UT-040-248	Wahweap	0	137,980	137,980
UT-040-249	Coyote Creek	0	9,840	9,840
UT-040-255	Upper Kanab Creek	0	61,430	61,430
UT-040-266	East of Bryce	0	887	887
UT-040-268	The Blues	19,030	20,290	1,260
UT-040-274 AZ-010-021	Pine Hollow Canyon *	0	9,343 - Utah 22,098 - Total	9,343 - Utah 22,098 - Total
ISA ISA ISA ISA	North Escalante Canyon The Gulch Phipps Death Hollow Escalante Canyons Tract -1 Tract 2, 3, & 4 Tract 5	163,216	202,433	39,217

UT-040-046 1/	Cottonwood Canyon	11,330		
UT-040-057 1/	Starvation Point	8,575 - Utah 29,692 - Total		
UT-040-123 1/ *	Cougar Canyon	10,568 - Utah 15,968 - Total		
Paria ISA Cont. 1/ *	Paria ISA & Continguous	21,470 - Utah		
ISA 2/	Devils Garden ISA		640	
Richfield District				
UT-050-019 NV-040-079	Kern Mtns.	0	28,700 - Utah 43,600 - Total	28,700 - Utah 43,600 - Total
UT-050-029 NV-040-086	Granite Spring*	0	28,180 - Utah 121,180 - Total	28,180 - Utah 121,180 - Total
UT-050-061	Swasey Mtns.	49,500	83,320	33,820
UT-050-073	Wah Wah Mtns.	35,000	84,000	49,000
UT-050-113	Thomas Range	0	44,000	44,000
UT-050-127	Fish Springs Range	52,500	68,910	16,410
UT-050-221	Fremont Gorge	2,540	18,500	15,960
UT-050-237	Horseshoe Canyon	38,800	73,180	34,380
UT-050-238	Blue Hills - Mt. Ellen	54,480	156,100	101,620
UT-050-241	Fiddler Bute	27,000	101,310	74,310

1/ Previously identified WSA

2/ Unit under appeal to IBLA

UT-050-242	Bull Mtn.	11,800	23,780	11,980
UT-050-244	Ragged Mtn.	0	28,615	28,615
UT-050-247	Little Rockies	38,700	66,060	27,360
UT-050-248	Mt. Pennel	27,300	159,650	132,350
UT-050-249	Mt. Hillers	20,000	27,122	7,122
UT-050-253	Long Canyon	0	16,550	16,550
UT-050-257	Notom Bench	0	8,975	8,975
UT-050-035 1/	Couger Mtn.	22,863		
UT-050-070 1/	King Top	84,771		
UT-050-077 1/	Howell Peak	23,825		
UT-050-078 1/	Notch Peak	51,130		
UT-050-186 1/	Rockwell	9,151		
UT-050-236 2/	Dirty Devil		289,120	
UT-050-233 2/	Factory Butte		67,605	

1/ Previously Identified WSA

2/ Unit under appeal to IBLA

Moab District

UT-060-023	Sids Mtn.	80,970	93,000	12,030
UT-060-025	Devils Canyon	9,610	24,050	14,440
UT-060-026	North Big Ridge	0	20,490	20,490
UT-060-028A	Crack Canyon	25,315	32,700	7,385
UT-060-028B	Cistern Canyon	0	11,480	11,480
UT-060-028C	Chute Canyon	0	31,340	31,340
UT-060-029A	San Rafael Reef	55,540	73,270	17,730
UT-060-045 UT-050-237A	Horseshoe Canyon	20,550	71,660	51,110
UT-060-053	Cedar Mtn.	0	104,200	104,200
UT-060-054	Mexican Mtn.	60,360	104,000	43,640
UT-060-067	Turtle Canyon	33,870	39,760	5,890
UT-060-068A	Desolation Canyon	217,130	340,880	123,750
UT-060-068B	Floy Canyon	0	82,300	82,300
UT-060-070	Jack Creek	0	6,570	6,570
UT-060-072	Dry Canyon	0	14,540	14,540
UT-060-075	Harmon Canyon	0	7,160	7,160

UT-060-076	Cow Canyon	0	5,000	5,000
UT-060- 077	Argyle Ridge	0	8,940	8,940
UT-060-088	South Goose Neck	0	4,400	4,400
UT-060-100A	Westwater Creek	0	9,240	9,240
UT-060-100B	Diamond Canyon	48,240	54,540	6,300
UT-060-100C	Cottonwood Canyon	62,900	85,240	22,340
UT-060-116/117 CO-070-113A	Wrigley Mesa/Jones Can.*	5,100 - Utah 54,290 - Tot.	5,100 - Utah 54,290 - Total	0 - Utah 0 - Total
UT-060-118	West Water Canyon	30,800	37,640	6,840
UT-060-119	Big Triangle	0	11,260	11,260
UT-060-120 CO-070-132B	Renegade Point *	0	6,270 - Utah 12,990 - Total	6,270 - Utah 12,990 - Total
UT-060-122	Granite Creek *	0	4,800 - Utah 7,920 - Total	4,800 - Utah 7,920 - Total
UT-060-131A	North Lost Spring Canyon	0	5,200	5,200
UT-060-131B	South Lost Spring Canyon	3,880	8,420	4,540
UT-060-137	Mary Jane Canyon	0	8,530	8,530
UT-060-138	Negro Bill Canyon	0	9,420	9,420
UT-060-139A	Mill Creek	10,320	17,820	7,500
UT-060-140A	Behind the Rocks	12,930	19,300	6,370
UT-060-164	Lockhart Basin	7,300	7,300	0

UT-060-165	Sixshooter Peak	0	10,130	10,130
UT-060-167	Bridger Jack Mesa	5,300	5,300	0
UT-060-169	Butler Wash	22,120	27,870	5,750
UT-060-171	Sweet Alice Canyon	0	9,880	9,880
UT-060-175	Middle Point	5,990	5,990	0
UT-060-181	Mancos Mesa	0	51,440	51,440
UT-060-188	Pine Canyon	11,300	15,180	3,880
UT-060-191	Cheese Box Canyon	15,410	27,520	12,110
UT-060-194	Harmony Flat	0	10,470	10,470
UT-060-196	Bullet Canyon	8,730	8,730	0
UT-060-197/198	Slickhorn Canyon	46,800	60,710	13,910
UT-060-201	Road Canyon	34,740	76,170	41,430
UT-060-204	Fish Creek Canyon	48,530	52,050	3,520
UT-060-205A	Arch Canyon	0	7,500	7,500
UT-060-205B	Mule Canyon	5,320	5,600	280
UT-060-224	Sheiks Canyon	3,070	3,070	0
UT-060-227 CO-030-265A	Squaw & Papose Canyon	6,580 11,900 - Tot.	9,670 - Utah 14,990 - Total	3,090 - Utah 3,090 - Total
UT-060-229 CO-030-265	Cross Canyon	1,000 - Utah 10,160 - Tot.	2,112 - Utah 11,272 - Total	1,112 - Utah 1,112 - Total
UT-060-232 CO-030-263	Little Ruin Canyon	0 - Utah 0 - Tot.	1,000 - Utah 13,413 - Total	1,000 - Utah 13,413 - Total

ISA	Dark Canyon ISA	49,904	49,904	0
ISA	Grand Gulch ISA	34,928	34,928	0
UT-060-007 2/	Muddy Creek		150,930	
UT-060-011 2/	Upper Muddy Creek		20,405	
UT-060-012 2/	Molen Reef/Sand Bench		35,160	
ISA 2/	Link Flat ISA		792	
<u>Vernal District</u>				
UT-080-103 CO-010-208	West Cold Springs *	235 - Utah 14,587 - Total	4,731 - Utah 45,021 - Total	4,495 - Utah 30,434 - Total
UT-080-104	Wild Mtn. *	0	130 - Utah 4,650 - Total	130 - Utah 4,650 - Total
UT-080-110	Hoy Mtn. *	0	5,515 - Utah 10,769 - Total	5,515 - Utah 10,769 - Total
UT-080-113 CO-010-214	Diamond Breaks *	3,900 - Utah 35,380 - Total	8,080 - Utah 42,070 - Total	4,180 - Utah 6,690 - Total
UT-080-200	Stone Bridge Draw	0	2,280	2,280
UT-080-208	Boone Springs	0	27,483	27,483
UT-080-414	Daniel's Canyon	2,475	5,920	3,445
UT-080-415	Moonshine Draw	0	3,747	3,747
UT-080-419 CO-010-001	Bull Canyon *	520 - Utah 12,297 - Total	986 - Utah 18,046 - Total	466 - Utah 5,749 - Total
UT-080-605	Sand Wash	0	19,503	19,503

2/ Under protest or appeal to IBLA

UT-080-612	Nine Mile Canyon	0	20,040	20,040
UT-080-615	Arglye Canyon	0	36,460	36,460
UT-080-616	Devils Canyon	0	11,120	11,120
UT-080-707	East Big Pack Mtn.	0	5,775	5,775
UT-080-708	Big Pack Mtn.	0	7,730	7,730
UT-080-709	West Pack Mtn.	0	9,815	9,815
UT-080-715	Bitter Creek	0	14,463	14,463
UT-080-721	Atchee Ridge *	0	13,853 - Utah 14,573 - Total	13,853 - Utah 14,573 - Total
UT-080-722	Rat Hole Ridge *	0	8,160 - Utah 11,710 - Total	8,160 - Utah 11,710 - Total
UT-080-730	Winter Ridge	0	43,963	43,963

INTRODUCTION

This booklet contains the results of the inventory phase of BLM's wilderness review. It announces the decisions on those lands in Utah which qualify as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's). These decisions were based on public involvement through two 90-day public comment periods and extensive field work by BLM.

Please note that BLM is not, at this time, recommending that any areas be designated "Wilderness" by Congress. BLM has only determined which inventory units contain wilderness characteristics (as described by the Wilderness Act of 1964). Those areas that do not meet these characteristics can now be dropped from review and interim protection.

Those areas that do have wilderness characteristics are now identified as WSA's. The Study Phase will assess all the other values and uses of the land through the BLM Planning System. Because areas are identified as WSA's during this phase of the review, this does not mean they will be recommended to Congress as suitable for wilderness designation. At the end of the Study Phase, BLM will make a recommendation for designation to the President, he will make his recommendation to Congress. Every WSA will be reviewed and acted upon by Congress, and only they will designate Wilderness.

The narratives in this book contain an analysis of comments and brief intensive summaries of more detailed intensive inventory files available for public review in the BLM State Office and the appropriate district office from which the inventory unit is managed. These files have larger, more detailed maps or photographs, and are available during normal business hours.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Overview of BLM's Wilderness Review Process

The BLM's wilderness review was mandated by Congress through Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Pub. Law 94-579) of October 21, 1976.

Phase 1 - Inventory: The inventory phase has two parts: initial and intensive. Its overall purpose is to identify those public lands, administered by BLM, having wilderness characteristics as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964 (Pub. Law 88-577).

Initial Inventory: In this stage, public lands which clearly and obviously do not have wilderness characteristics were identified. Existing information, such as maps and aerial photos, and input received from the public was utilized to make this decision.

The proposed initial inventory decision was released by the Utah State Director on April 4, 1979. A 90-day public comment period followed, from April 4, 1979, to July 2, 1979. The final decision was released on August 8, 1979, becoming effective on October 4, 1979, on all inventory units not included in special inventories. A total of approximately 14,647,240 acres of "public land" in Utah was released from wilderness consideration at that time.

Intensive Inventory: In this stage, as reflected in this report, field inventories were conducted. Each area which was not released in the initial inventory was examined to determine the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics listed in the Wilderness Act. Naturalness and the presence of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The presence of supplemental values is an additional factor in areas that have these wilderness characteristics. A total of approximately 4,941,600 acres of public land contained within 176 inventory units was intensively inventoried in Utah. Each of these areas is discussed in this book. It is this final stage of the inventory that we are concluding with this announcement.

Phase II - Study: BLM is now beginning the study phase of the wilderness review, which will be conducted as part of a comprehensive land-use planning effort by BLM. During this study phase, the public will have several opportunities to comment upon other resource values within a Wilderness Study Area. These comments will be considered in making decisions prior to subsequent recommendations to the President and Congress on an area's suitability or nonsuitability as Wilderness.

Phase III - Report: Recommendations on an area's suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation are reported to Congress through the Secretary of the Interior to the President. Reports on all WSA's must be submitted to the President by September 21, 1991, after they have gone through Phase II (Study) of the wilderness review.

B. Definitions

Terminology specific to the BLM wilderness review process has evolved throughout the inventory process. To facilitate better communication, the following terms elaborate on definitions already given in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

Cherrystemming: An unofficial term used to describe the way an inventory unit boundary is drawn to exclude a road that enters the unit; the resulting boundary resembles a cherrystem.

Contiguous lands: Lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary. Lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

FLPMA: Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which mandated the BLM Wilderness Review. Often referred to and pronounced "FLIPMA," or the "Organic Act."

Instant Study Areas: Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act mandated that all primitive or natural areas formally identified prior to November 1, 1975, will be studied for wilderness and recommended to the President. These existing primitive and natural areas are called Instant Study Areas, or ISA's.

Inventory Unit: Areas of public lands at the start of the wilderness inventory which were indexed for reference. All BLM lands in Utah are within an inventory unit. An official file for each unit is maintained at the BLM State and appropriate district office and is available for public review.

Non-Public Land Inholdings: All non-federal lands, including State, County, or private land located within the inventory units. These lands are not calculated in the acreage being evaluated for wilderness, nor are they being inventoried for wilderness characteristics.

Public Lands: Any land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership except:

--lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf
--lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos
--lands in which the United States retains the minerals, but the surface is private.

Only public land is being inventoried for wilderness purposes.

Road: For the purpose of the BLM's wilderness inventory, the following definition was adopted: "The word 'roadless' refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road."

To clarify this definition, the following subdefinitions also apply:

"Improved and maintained" - Actions taken physically by man to keep the road open to vehicular traffic.

"Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction.

"Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

"Mechanical means" - Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

"Relatively regular and continuous use" - Vehicular use which has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

Roadless: Refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use.

Roadless Area: That area which is roadless, as defined above, and is bounded by a road, the edge of a right-of-way, other land ownership, or a significant impact of man.

Situation Evaluation: Each wilderness inventory unit, whether roadless or not, has a situation evaluation written for it, describing the roads, size, and general naturalness of the area. These are the file documents associated with the initial inventory and are available for review at the State and appropriate district BLM offices.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are wilderness characteristics examined in the intensive wilderness inventory. Factors contributing to opportunities for solitude are vegetative screening, topographic relief, vistas, and physiographic variety.

Supplemental Values: Features of ecological, geological, or other scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that may be present in an inventory unit. These are not necessary criteria for wilderness suitability, as is stated in the Wilderness Act of 1964, but must be assessed during the intensive wilderness inventory.

Way: A two-wheeled track created only by the passage of vehicles. A "Way" is not a road.

Wilderness The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 follows: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. Wilderness is an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which: (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

Wilderness Area: An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics: Those characteristics of wilderness as described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. These include size, naturalness, solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation, and supplemental values.

Wilderness Inventory: An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and a map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria as established under Section 603(c) of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act.

Wilderness Review: The term used to cover the entire wilderness inventory, study, and reporting phases of the wilderness program of the BLM.

C. Interim Management Policy (IMP)

During the period of the wilderness review and until Congress acts on the President's recommendations on what areas are suitable for wilderness designation, the Secretary of the Interior is required to manage those lands having wilderness characteristics so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness, subject to certain exceptions and conditions. This management is referred to as "interim management" and is discussed in a document entitled Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review - (December 12, 1979). This is available at any BLM office.

D. Air Quality Redesignation

The BLM's role in air quality redesignation, discussed in the IMP publication, should be reiterated here since much confusion has arisen over this issue. Under the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977), all

BLM-administered lands were given Class II air quality classification, which allows moderate deterioration associated with moderate, well-controlled industrial and population growth. The BLM will continue to manage Wilderness Study Areas as Class II. The Department of the Interior will not recommend reclassification to the more strict Class I in connection with future wilderness recommendations resulting from the BLM wilderness review. The two processes are separate and distinct, and are accomplished under two different laws: FLPMA and the Clean Air Act. Recommendations for wilderness designation are made by the BLM through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress. Air quality reclassification is the prerogative of the States, and it must follow a process mandated by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977, involving a study of health, environmental, economic, social, and energy effects, a public hearing, and a report to the Environmental Protection Agency. The Department will not recommend any change in air quality classification as part of wilderness recommendations.

INFORMATION CONCERNING OTHER RESOURCE VALUES AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS IN THE INVENTORY UNITS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED UNTIL THE STUDY PHASE OF THE WILDERNESS REVIEW, AND HAS NOT AFFECTED THE INVENTORY DECISION BEING MADE AT THIS POINT IN THE REVIEW.

E. How Wilderness Characteristics are Evaluated

1. Naturalness

"...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable..."
Wilderness Act 1964

The area must appear to be generally natural. An area may include some imprints of man provided they are substantially unnoticeable. Trails, signs, bridges, fences, stream barriers, snow gauges, spring developments, and grazing may be permitted in a WSA, if they are substantially unnoticeable and do not detract from the overall naturalness of the area.

Imprints of man outside a unit are not normally considered in addressing the area's naturalness.

2. Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

"Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation..."
Wilderness Act 1964

Two key words appear here: "or" and "outstanding." Either opportunities for solitude or opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation must be present for an area to qualify as a WSA; both need not be present. These opportunities must be outstanding in order for an area to qualify as a WSA. Opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation may exist in an inventory unit, but if these opportunities are not outstanding, the area does not qualify as a WSA.

Examples of primitive and unconfined types of recreation are:

Hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, spelunking, horseback riding, mountain or rock climbing, river running, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, dog sledding, photography, bird watching, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, and sightseeing for botanical, zoological, or geological features.

3. Supplemental Values

"...ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

The presence or lack of supplemental values does not determine whether an inventory unit becomes a WSA. These values are not essential for WSA status. However, it is important that the presence or absence of these types of features in an area be noted, especially their location.

4. Possibility of the Area Returning to a Natural Condition

Imprints of man having a significant impact on the naturalness of an area are excluded from WSA's. When the impact of man's imprints is slight to moderate, there is the possibility of returning the area to a substantially unnoticeable level by natural processes or hand labor. This is dependent on the kind of imprint, the topography, the vegetation, the amount of rainfall, and so forth. The area must contain the wilderness characteristics before this factor becomes a consideration.

II. FORMAT OF THIS REPORT

All wilderness inventory units which were intensively inventoried in this phase of the inventory are included in this book. Some of these are identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) and some are not. The summary narratives are arranged by district.

District prefix numbers are:

020 - Salt Lake District
040 - Cedar City District
050 - Richfield District
060 - Moab District
080 - Vernal District
-- - ISA's

The degree of detail both in the unit file documentation in the various offices and in the narrative summaries presented herein depends upon the size of the inventory unit, the number of imprints of man within the unit, and the number of boundary adjustments made since the conclusion of the initial inventory. In some cases, units have been combined or subdivided as a result of information gained. Roads and/or other boundary conditions have caused this change, such as roads which were thought to exist or not to exist and were clarified during fieldwork and/or public comments.

Changes in acreage figures between the final initial inventory boundaries and the intensive inventory boundaries may not be the result of boundary adjustments. Acreages have been recalculated in some cases to insure more accuracy and/or better and more accurate methods were used to arrive at more precise acreage figures. Boundaries will be legally defined and acreages specifically calculated now that WSA's are identified.

In all cases, non-public inholdings are not calculated in the unit's acreage, nor were these lands inventoried. When possible, these inholdings are indicated on the enclosed maps. In some cases, particularly with patented mining claims, these inholdings are too small to be noted on the maps, but are mentioned in the narrative summaries.

Each narrative summary is accompanied by a map, most of which is one-half inch to the mile in scale. However, because of the unavailability of maps, not all are the same scale nor do they appear on the same kind of map base. Check each map for the scale and the legend which denotes the unit number, scale, inventory unit boundary, and/or WSA boundary. References to more detailed maps may appear on the map or in the narrative summaries.

III. PROTESTS

Any individual who disagrees with the decisions contained in this booklet and has information which may influence the decision, may file a protest with the Utah State Director. The 30-day protest period begins November 15, and ends December 15, 1980. Protests must be filed with the Utah State Director by 4:30 p.m., December 15, 1980, and identified as follows: "Protest to Utah State Director's Final Wilderness Inventory Decision." No specific forms are required, however, the protest must specify the units and include a clear and concise statement of reasons for the protest and must furnish supporting information on the presence or absence of the wilderness characteristics as described in the Wilderness Act of 1964. The State Director will consider such protests and issue a decision. This decision is then subject to appeal to the Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). If the decision on the protest remains consistent with this decision announced in this book, only the protestor may appeal to the IBLA. If such decision reflects a change, based upon the information submitted by the protestor, any adversely affected person may appeal to the IBLA. Appeals may be filed by following normal administrative procedures applicable to formal appeals to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, which are published in 43 CFR, Part 4.

The final decisions announced herein are scheduled to become effective as of 4:30 p.m., December 15, 1980 (close of protest period), if no protests are filed. At that time, the portions of the unit/s not within the Wilderness Study Area/s as established, will no longer be subject to the management

restrictions imposed by Section 603 of Public Law 94-579. For purposes of this decision, each unit is considered separately from every other unit under wilderness inventory. Should any amendment to this decision be made by the Utah State Director as a result of new information received following this publication, that amendment will be formally published in the Federal Register and will not become effective until 30 days following such publication. This 30-day extension will apply only to the amendment and not the original decision.

SALT LAKE DISTRICT

Intensive Inventory

Inventory Number	Unit Name	Identified as a WSA	Not Identified as a WSA
UT-020-001	*Little Goose Creek 1		X
UT-020-011	Wagon Box Pass		X
UT-020-012	Wagon Box Pass		X
UT-020-037	Newfoundland Mountains		X
UT-020-040A	Silver Island Mountains		X
UT-020-040B	Silver Island Mountains		X
UT-020-040C	Silver Island Mountains		X
UT-020-042	North Salt Desert		X
UT-020-044	Ferber Wash		X
UT-020-046	Utah Peak		X
UT-020-047	Utah Peak		X
UT-020-050	Ferber Flat		X
UT-020-053	Northeast Corner		X
UT-020-054	Northeast Corner		X
UT-020-057	Northeast Corner		X
UT-020-087	North Cedar Mountains		X
UT-020-089	North Stansbury Mountains	X	
UT-020-094	Cedar Mountains	X	
UT-020-101	Big Creek		X
UT-020-102	Dry Canyon		X
UT-020-105	Big Hollow	X	
UT-020-111	Onaqui Mountains		X
UT-020-129	Dugway Mountains		X

* Inventory Unit under protest -

The units listed below are inter-state units which are contiguous to larger units in Nevada. The BLM in Nevada has taken the lead on inventorying these units and will publish the findings in their State summary book. The Utah portions of these units are not identified as WSA's, as they lack the necessary wilderness characteristics.

Unit No.	Unit Name	Unit Acreage
*UT-020-001	Little Goose Creek #1	1,332
UT-020-011	Wagon Box Pass	2,294
UT-020-012	Wagon Box Pass	2,569
UT-020-044	Ferber Wash	3,774
UT-020-046	Utah Peak	3,913
UT-020-047	Utah Peak	483
UT-020-050	Ferber Flat	6,379
UT-020-053	Northeast Corner	274
UT-020-054	Northeast Corner	146
UT-020-057	Northeast Corner	287

*This unit is under protest. It will remain under management restrictions imposed by Section 603 of FLPMA pending disposition of protest.

UNIT NO: UT-020-037 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: NEWFOUNDLAND MOUNTAINS UNIT ACREAGE: 23,266

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: Unit 037 is located in the southwest quadrant of Box Elder County, 25 miles west of Great Salt Lake, or 77 miles northwest of the Salt Lake International Airport.

The range consists of a highly eroded, tilted fault block, surrounded at the flanks by the erosional scars of ancient Lake Bonneville. The narrow, rugged, 19 mile north-south trending range rises from the Great Salt Lake Desert, at 4,200 feet, to an elevation of 7,000 feet at Desert Peak. The north-south axis is divided by a saddle at midpoint, giving the unit two geographically distinct sections. All aspects develop directly from the main ridge; the fall line is straight and short, and the canyons are shallow, rocky and V-shaped.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 23,266 acres of public land and encloses approximately 1,280 acres of state land and 120 acres of private land.

B. NATURALNESS: Vegetation in the unit is spotty. The lower elevations show a predominance of halophytic species: salt grasses, pickelweed, halogeton, and shadscale. As elevation increases, shadscale and sage give way to scattered stands of juniper, black and big sage, rabbit brush and associated grasses.

Unit 037 is heavily impacted. Mining interests have been prospecting, claiming, and working the Newfoundland Mountains mineral deposits since the late 1800's. Roads, "ways", and trails lead to patented land and claims; to surface diggings, borrow pits, prospect pits, vertical and inclined shafts, adits and accompanying structures.

The livestock industry has been using the Newfoundland Range for wintering sheep the past 80 years. Again, roads, "ways", and trails were cut into the mountains for access. Water troughs and 47 check-dams are scattered along the perimeter of the mountains.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

(1) SOLITUDE: Topographically, the unit's size is narrowed at one location to one mile in width; it is never more than a single, exposed ridgeline for the entire 15 miles of its length. Man's evidences are continually in view; interior or secondary canyons do not exist; vertical rock faces silhouette the ridgetop but do little to provide angular screening or to break up line-of-sight perspective.

Topographic screening, what there is of it in the unit, is not complimented by vegetative screening. Juniper trees are present but scattered; understory consists of sage and grasses. The southern six miles look from the perimeter to be bare. On closer inspection, sage, shadscale, halogeton, and grasses dominate the treeless profile.

Sights and sounds within the unit are substantial. Since the 1940's military overflight impacts have been an almost daily occurrence. Today Air Force low-level (below 100 feet) sub and supersonic flights cross the unit 7 days a week. In-runs, out-runs, and holding patterns for numerous sorties occupy air space above the Newfoundland Mountains.

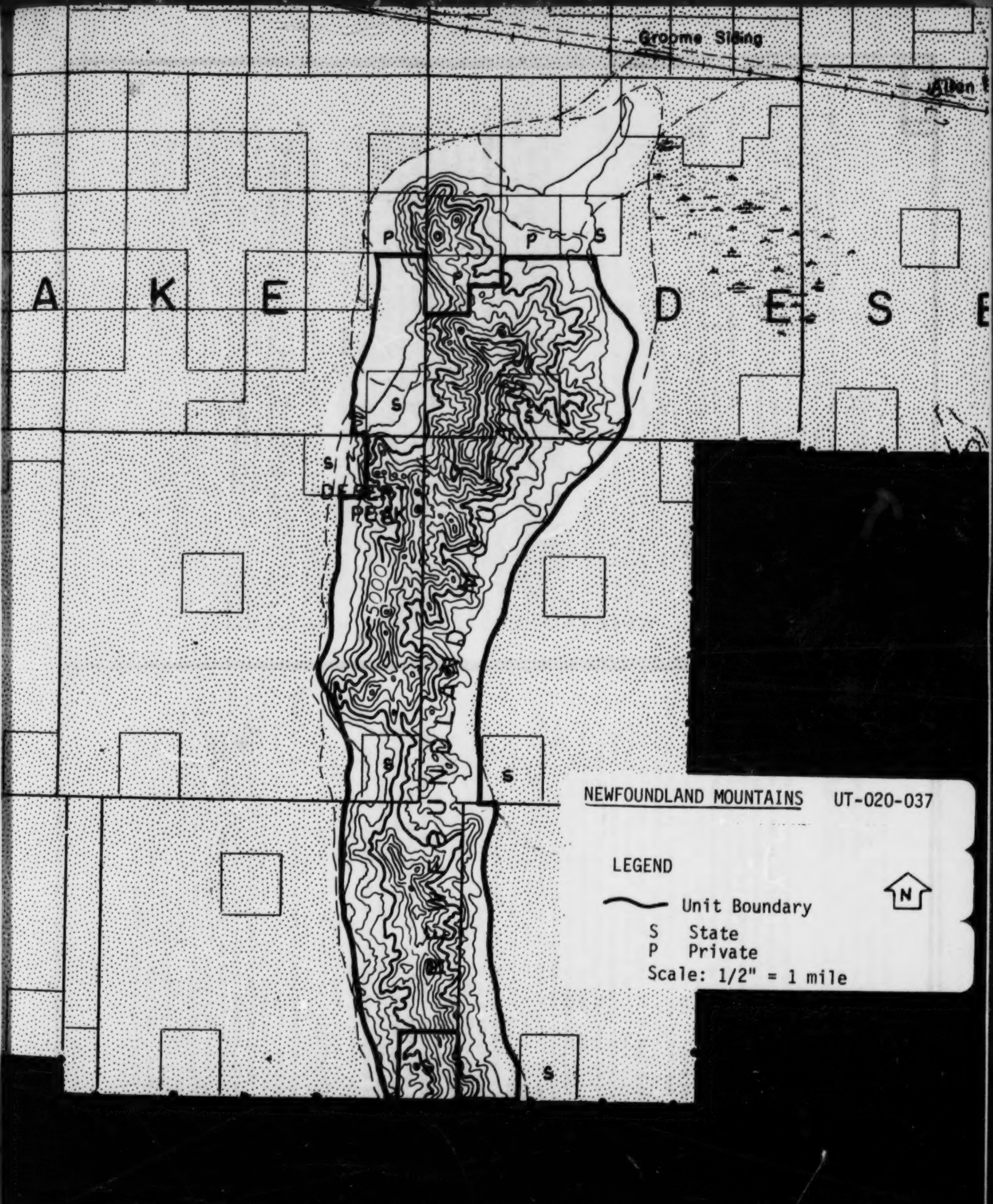
(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Unit 037, by its very isolation presents a paradox. The unit is surrounded by a sea of mud or by the Eagle Bombing and Gunnery Range, or by private land; access is restricted. Within the unit, one finds this exposed, rocky ridgeline offers hiking, limited rock climbing, backpacking, upland gamebird, coyote and rabbit hunting, photography and sightseeing. Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation do exist in the Newfoundlands but is not considered to be "outstanding."

(D) SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Biologically, the Newfoundland Mountains display an abundance of eyries and potential eyrie sites. Vertical cliffs, promontories and outcrops offer shelter and safety to nesting pairs and their brood. Historically and geologically, the unit holds some interest. In the past, mining operators worked the mountains, particularly in the north end, for gold, silver, copper, and lead.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Nineteen comments were received, eighteen in favor and one against Wilderness Study Area designation for the Newfoundland Mountains. Of the eighteen, eleven were of a general nature, declaring only the desire to see WSA designation given the unit. The other seven specifically disagreed with the BLM's recommendation to drop the unit from further wilderness inventory. These seven commenters felt the unit does offer opportunities for solitude, and inspite of restricted access, a primitive and unconfined potential exists for those searching for a wilderness experience in the Newfoundland Mountains.

4. DECISION: Dropped from further wilderness inventory and review.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The additional information supplied by the public did not affect the intensive wilderness inventory findings for this unit. A lack of vegetative and topographic screening still exists in most of the Newfoundland Mountains; the unit configuration does not lend itself to providing seclusion for many more than a few people at any one time; the presence of low flying aircraft still exists, and is expected to increase in the future. In addition to the above, access to the unit is restricted, this in itself restricts "outstanding" recreational potential.


Groome Siding
A K E
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NEWFOUNDLAND MOUNTAINS UT-020-037
LEGEND
Unit Boundary
S State
P Private
Scale: 1/2" = 1 mile
N
R. 14 W.
20
R. 13 W.

UNIT NO.: UT-020-040A WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: SILVER ISLAND MOUNTAINS UNIT ACREAGE: 16,510

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: UT-020-040A is one of three Silver Island Mountain (S.I.M.) units formed by the division of the initial inventory unit, UT-020-040. The S.I.M.'s are located in the northwest corner of Tooele County, and from the Utah/Nevada border, extend northeast into the Salt Desert for a distance of 32 miles. To prevent confusion, one should understand that the S.I.M.'s consist of three segments or mountain designations within the S.I.M. Range. The southwest segment is called the Leppy Range, (Unit 040A). The central segment is called the Silver Island, (Units 040B and 040C), and the northeast segment is called Crater Island, (part of Unit 042). Unit 040A, as noted above, consists of the BLM administered land in the Leppy Range from the Leppy Pass on the west to the Silver Island Pass on the east. The topographic profile of 040A is varied, or divided between those acres which were submerged beneath the water of Lake Bonneville, and those acres which protruded above the surface as islands. Roughly 75 to 80 percent of the unit lies below the 5200 foot mark, thus displaying erosional evidence cut or deposited by the ancient lake. All along the west side of the unit wave action carved a series of terraces which blend together into a pronounced and gentle slope. The remainder of the area at or below 5200 feet, if not included in terraces on one side or the other, displays a washed, rather worn, flat or generally rounded form. The remaining 20 to 25 percent, or that protruding above 5200 feet, is consolidated into three main bodies: Volcano Peak (6,011 feet), Rishel Peak (6,212 feet) and Tetzlaff Peak (6,267 feet), the latter of which is the highest peak in the Leppy Mountains. Vegetative cover in 040A is thin. The general vegetative spectrum consists of desert brush and grasses varying somewhat in size and density, but for the most part giving the flat and rolling landscape a mottled or spotted appearance. Steep hillsides and mountain tops are exposed; no aspects exhibit water retention or dominant growth patterns; grasses and stunted sage vegetate in part those elevations of extreme relief.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit consists of 16,510 acres of Public Land and contains one 640 acre state section.

B. NATURALNESS: The 27.8 miles of "ways" leading to prospect pits, mine dumps, shafts, adits, tunnels, loading ramps, retaining walls, borrow pits, support buildings for mining operations, and the Wendover City Dump, are substantially noticeable throughout the majority of the unit. Other imprints have been left by livestock operations as "ways," campsites, holding pens, carins, and associated litter; by recreationists who explore on ORV's and find the shortest distance to be across untracked ground instead of on established roads; and by sub-and-supersonic air traffic as Air Force fighter-bombers seek bombing grids east and south of the Silver Island Mountains.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

(1) SOLITUDE: About seventy-five percent (12,000 acres) of the unit consists of unscreened, gently sloping benchland that drops northwest and southwest, from a heavily eroded ridgeline, to a perimeter road below. The remaining 25 percent (4,000 acres) consists of three mountainous, monolithic landforms, rising 2,000 feet above the rest of the unit. Vegetative screening throughout the unit is nearly nonexistent.

Sights and sounds within the unit are substantial. Air Force low-level (below 100 feet) sub-and-supersonic flights cross the unit 7 days a week. In-runs, out-runs and holding patterns for numerous sorties occupy air space above the Salt Desert and the mountain ranges contained within.

(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Hiking, preferably day hiking, dry camping, horseback riding, rockhounding, photography, and upland gamebird, rabbit and coyote hunting make up the practical gamut of primitive and unconfined recreational potential in the unit. These activities are further limited by a network of man-made intrusions upon the landscape.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Historically those who crossed the Salt Desert tracked north of Floating Island and passed between the Silver Island and Crater Island, at what is known today as the Donner-Reed Pass. There are those, Stansbury and Fremont, and perhaps others, who very well might have explored the Silver Island Mountains and crossed and/or camped somewhere in Unit 040A. Geologic and scenic contrasts are found in the unit. Volcano Peak is stark as it stands out in color and form from other features in the Leppy Mountains. Old mining diggings and associated ruins remain to stimulate those engaged in rockhounding, prospecting, photography or historical interpretation. Lake Bonneville remnants are probably better represented in 040A than anywhere on the three Silver Island Units. A greater percentage of the unit was under water, at the Bonneville level, and subsequently shows a full complement of erosional features through decending levels.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: No comments were received for this unit.

4. DECISION: Dropped from further wilderness inventory and review.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though the unit contains adequate supplemental values, the remaining wilderness characteristics are severely lacking. Unit 040A is open, surrounded by the imprints of man and offers recreational opportunities considered to be less than "outstanding."

UNIT NO.: UT-020-040B WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: SILVER ISLAND MOUNTAIN B UNIT ACREAGE: 25,041

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is one of the three Silver Island Mountain (SIM) units formed by the division of the initial inventory unit, UT-020-040. The SIMs are located in the northwest corner of Tooele County, and from the Utah/Nevada border, extend northeast into the Salt Desert for a distance of 32 miles. Unit 040B is located along the central axis of the Silver Island, between the Silver Island Pass Road on the south, the Silver Island Canyon Road on the northeast, and the Donner-Reed Pass on the north. Access is good and relatively short, 15 dirt-road miles from the Leppy Road turn-off, or 14 line-of-sight miles north of I-80. The unit is polygonal in shape, and lies on the elongated north-south axis of approximately 12.2 miles in length and 6.4 miles in width. The topography profile of 040B is a composite of approximately 50% flat or gently sloping bench and terrace lands, remanents of ancient Lake Bonneville, and 50% foothills and mountains that rise from 5200 feet to 7,563 feet at Graham Peak. Though 040B displays a greater size, there are many similarities found in the three 040 units. The ridgeline or block faulting that gives definition to the Leppy and Silver Isaland Mountain Range rises to peaks in the 7,000 foot category; rugged and rocky foothills have been cut and chiseled into gullies, washes and canyons of many aspects; the terraces, benches and outwash alluvium exhibit a full array of vestigial, Bonnevillian remains.

No live streams exist within the unit. Unit 040B, lying between the other 040 units as it does, shows a graduated transition from little or no cover in 040A to at least a recognizable cover in 040C. Distribution patterns, elevation and plant species remain the same. Juniper begin to show up in abundance; coverage, however, is not heavy enough to provide a conspicious canopy-like appearance.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 25,041 acres of Public land and encloses 1,280 acres of state land.

B. NATURALNESS: Man's impact on 040B has been extensive, particularly on those acres below the high peaks and the elevated ridgeline. Elsewhere, especially on the perimeter, ORV play has left its impression. Above the unit, sights and sounds are applied by Air Force fighter-bombers on their way to or from holding patterns or target in or out-runs.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

(1) SOLITUDE: Within 040B, one in search of solitude will soon find the quest leading away from the open, skimpily vegetated lake terraces to the tightening contours and increasing gradient of the Silver Island Mountains. Vegetative screening throughout the unit is poor. At the mountain's base, shadscale, sage, *Ephedra* and grasses provide a wispy, green-gray hint of ground cover, but height and texture is slight and line-of-sight perspective is unbroken. Topographic screening in the upper peaks provides a backdrop, but does little to shield one from the surrounding in-unit imprints of man. Gullies, washes, and canyons are steep, short and relatively straight; separation or framentation of prospective is not complete; seclusion or isolation is not spatially closed to sights, sounds and evidences of man.

(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Recreational uses in the unit are hiking, hunting, dry camping, rockhounding, photography, sightseeing and horseback riding, but something less than "outstanding" opportunities.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Supplemental values must exist by the mere facts that the Silver Island Mountains have played so prominent a role in past mining history of the region and historically stood as a barrier and sentinel to the pioneers who dared cross the inhospitable Salt Desert. Other values of scenic and scientific consequence can be found lining the Silver Island Mountain Range as sediments, a tangible Pleistocene veener from which geologic time and history can be told.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: No comments were received for this unit.

4. DECISION: Dropped from further wilderness inventory and review.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Very little screening is provided by either vegetation or land form. The unit is substantially impacted by man and does not contain the "outstanding" characteristics required for further study.

UNIT NO.: UT-020-040C　　　　WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: SILVER ISLAND MOUNTAINS　　　　UNIT ACREAGE: 6,755

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: UT-020-040C is one of three Silver Island Mountain (S.I.M.) units formed by the division of the initial inventory unit, UT-020-040. The unit is located on the northeast corner of the Silver Island, 21 dirt-road miles northeast of Wendover, and 19 line-of-sight miles north of I-80. It is generally rectangular in shape, approximately 4.25 miles long and 3.50 miles wide. The topographic profile of 040C is mountainous. A single rib or ridgeline trends southwest to northeast, giving rise to Cobb Peak, 7,021 feet and two unnamed peaks at 6,897 and 6,780 feet. (All are included within State owned land.) Relief in the unit is pronounced and varies from 4,245 feet along the unit's base, to Cobb Peak, a displacement of 2,776 feet. On the upper slopes rills grow to gullies and washes; a dendritic drainage patten develops, cutting a variety of aspects, all of which terminate in outwash fans and bahadas. Perennial water was not found in the unit; all streams are intermittent or ephemeral, and originate with snow melt and rain runoff. Floral cover in the unit is meager; all slopes, to a high degree, are exposed. Overstory consists of dispersed, stunted junipers, commonly found in the higher elevations. Pinyon was not found in the unit.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 6,755 acres of Public Land and encloses one 640 acre state section.

B. NATURALNESS: Inspite of maintained roads surrounding the unit, imprints in 040C are few. Mineral exploration and discovery seem to have been concentrated (localized) along a northeast-southwest trending fault zone, expressed on the surface as running through Silver Island Canyon. Other evidence of man's work consists of .75 miles of "ways" entering the unit from the north and running into short, straight washes to the Lake Bonneville, Stansbury Level, at an elevation of 4,484 feet. Possibilities for so few imprints have been suggested. Location should certainly be a factor. Though not at the end of the Silver Island Mountain Range, 040C is at the end of what is termed the Silver Island. At this point relief is abrupt, offering the majority of those who would venture so far in search of desert recreation, the O.R.V. enthusiast, less acreage on which to ride. Consequently, less interest would be shown and less time spent in the area. The unit too is not so attractive as are nearby roads to new discoveries, Floating Island, Crater Island and the Donner-Reed trail, all of which branch at, or just beyond, unit 040C boundaries.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

(1) SOLITUDE: Solitude in Unit 040C is severely restricted by size, exposure (lack of screening) and daily Air Force overflights. The unit has few secluded spots. Vegetative screening is sparse; trees are stunted and grow in a scattered pattern as singles rather than in clumps or stands; a canopy effect is absent. Topographic screening is poorly defined. Land ownership patterns are irregular; state inholdings dominate the higher elevations. The remaining public lands consist of a single, exposed ridge, outwash bahadas or upland benches and ancient lake terraces. Sights and sounds within the unit are substantial. Air Force low-level (below 100 feet) sub and supersonic flights cross the unit 7 days a week. In-runs, out-runs and holding patterns for numerous sorties occupy air space above the Salt Desert.

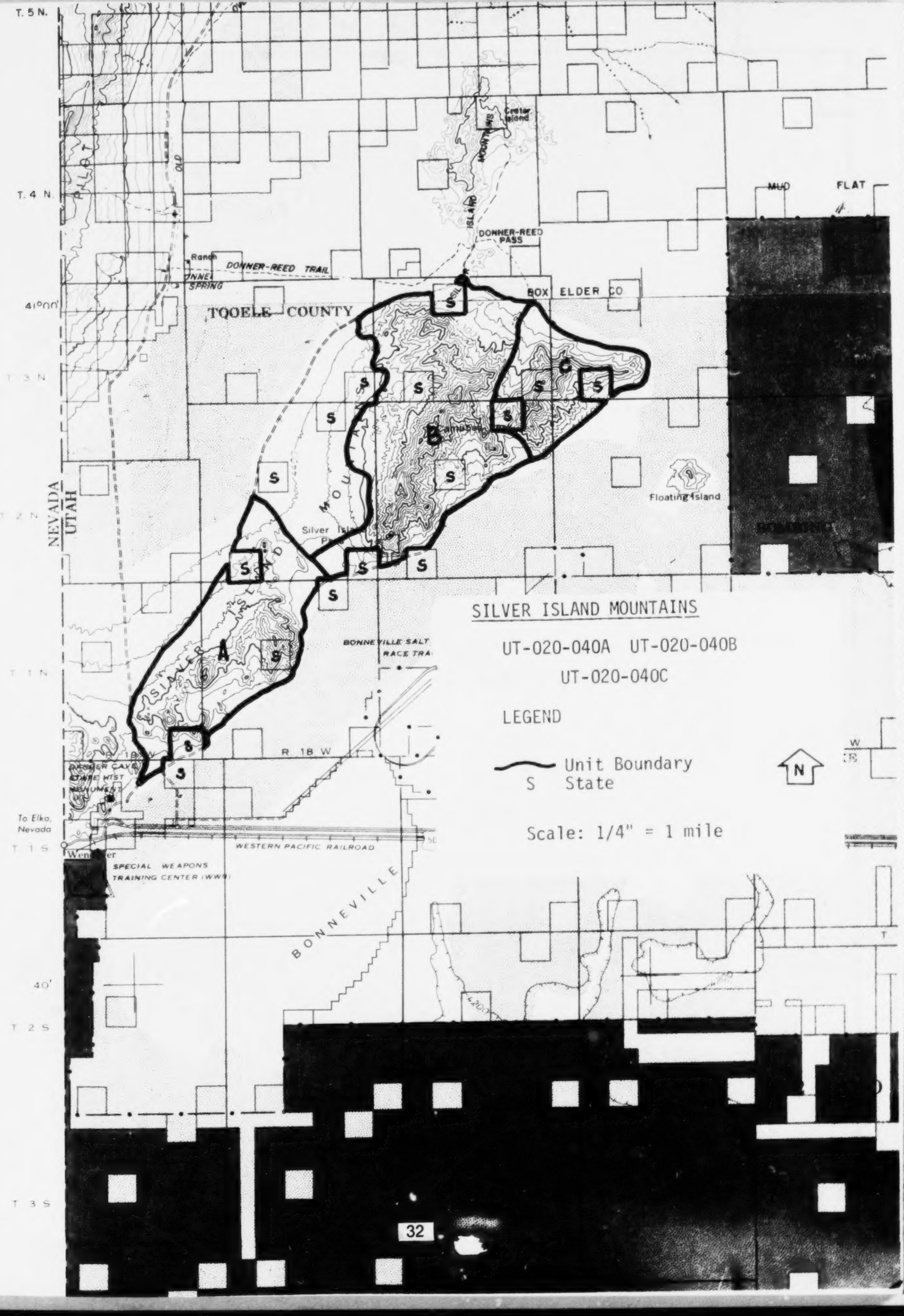
(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Primitive recreational potential does exist, but is limited to day hiking, dry camping, photography, rockhounding and sightseeing; all of which become something less than "outstanding" when defined as movement confined or inhibited by an aggregate of small size, questionable solitude, irregular boundaries, and the availability of similar or potentially more pleasing landscapes within the Silver Island Range.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Geologically the unit was the end of the Silver Island peninsula as well as an island, depending on lake depth, and in so being was washed intensely, particularly at the northeast corner, (Unit 040C) by Lake Bonneville wave action. Rockhounders are drawn to the prominent wave-cut terraces and the accompanying shoreline deposits of tufa. Other rock material of interest might exist in the unit, but this possibility had not been expressed by the public.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Three comments were received for this unit; all objected to the B.L.M.'s recommendation to drop 040C from further wilderness inventory. The respondents felt that the unit contains "outstanding" opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation. One comment stated that Cobb Peak offered excellent views and vistas; however, Cobb Peak is located in a state section and is not being reviewed for wilderness potential.

4. DECISION: Dropped from further wilderness inventory and review.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: There is naturalness in the Silver Island Mountains, particularly UT-020-040C. Supplemental values, including vistas of the surrounding Salt Desert, are present. The disqualifying factor for this unit is the lack of "outstanding" opportunity for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Man's work is, at times, substantially noticeable. Unit size is small, irregular, open or poorly screened, and bombarded daily by Air Force overflights. There are few secluded locations for solitude or recreation and none that were found to be "outstanding."


SILVER ISLAND MOUNTAINS
UT-020-040A UT-020-040B
UT-020-040C
LEGEND
Unit Boundary
S State
Scale: 1/4" = 1 mile
N
TOOELE COUNTY
BOX ELDER CO
NEVADA
UTAH
DONNER-REED TRAIL
DONNER-REED PASS
MUD FLAT
Floating Island
Crater Island
BONNEVILLE SALT
RACE TRA
WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD
SPECIAL WEAPONS
TRAINING CENTER (WWII)
BONNEVILLE
To Elko, Nevada
R. 18 W
T. 5 N.
T. 4 N.
T. 3 N
T. 2 N
T. 1 N
T. 1 S
T. 2 S
T. 3 S
41°00'
40'

UNIT NO: UT-020-042 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: NORTH SALT DESERT UNIT ACREAGE: 376,168

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: Unit 042 sits astride the Box Elder County line, in the northwest corner of Utah's Great Salt Desert. Size is massive with an irregular shape that resembles a block C. Unit dimensions are: approximately 48 miles across the bottom or southern boundary; approximately 18 miles down the back or west side; approximately 35 miles along the top or north side. The majority of the unit consists of what is commonly called salt and mud flats, though elevation varies from 4,200 feet to 5,675 feet.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 376,168 acres of Public Land and encloses 25,964 acres of state land, and 5,340 acres of private land.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the unit is a flat expanse of clay and sand impregnated with salt. Degrees of clay, sand and salt vary from point to point. The east side of the unit shows a predominent accumulation of sand. Mud seems to mix with salt and sand everywhere except in the higher elevations of the unit. Consistency varies from soft to mush depending on the season and available moisture.

The Salt Desert has been described as barren, and for the most part the description is an accurate one. Vegetative cover on the flats is something less than 1%. Cover on those areas above 4,200 feet, Floating Island, Grayback Hills and Crater Island, was also found to be less than 5%. Vehicle tracks heavily impact the unit's southern boundary, adjacent to I-80, as well as that area adjacent to the Silver Island Mountains. "Ways" intrude upon all three landforms to provide access to mining operations, grazing interests or in support of bombing, rocketry or gunnery installations. A maze of "ways" outline the western and southern boundaries of the bombing and gunnery range; others desultorily cross the entire unit, border to border. Bombing grids, plane crash sites and impacts by tracked vehicles, in an attempt to clear areas of live ordinance, contribute additional impairment to an already unnatural setting.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

(1) SOLITUDE: Unit 042 displays size, but meets Wilderness Inventory Handbook criteria in no other way. A secluded spot might be defined as isolated if the desert was not shared with others; if the distances between users were measured in miles.

Solitude in Unit 042 is not considered to be "outstanding." Screening is a result of earth curvature or mirage. Sights and sounds cannot be avoided. Outside of the unit, to the north and south, trains run a daily schedule, and inside the unit the Air Force utilizes its largest practice range. On the ground, the Air Force security patrols monitor range boundaries, and I-80 sustains continual interstate traffic.

(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: All surface recreation in the Salt Desert leaves an indelible imprint of varying degrees. Wagon tracks 134 years old can be seen today and imprints left today are expected to remain as long. One cannot visit--cannot even walk upon the mudflats without leaving tracks, an "imprint" that remains as an unnatural, unscreened, substantially noticeable work of man. Overlooking use impacts, standard recreational uses such as walking, hiking, hunting, horseback riding and backpacking are not "outstanding" in 042 and are probably better served in other locations.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Ecologically and geologically the North Salt Desert is unique. To some it is desolate though beautiful; to some a place to be avoided and feared; to others "A kind of goodness in itself that is worth preserving." It is in fact a historical narrative, a map and skeletal remains of the land-locked sea that once was Lake Bonneville.

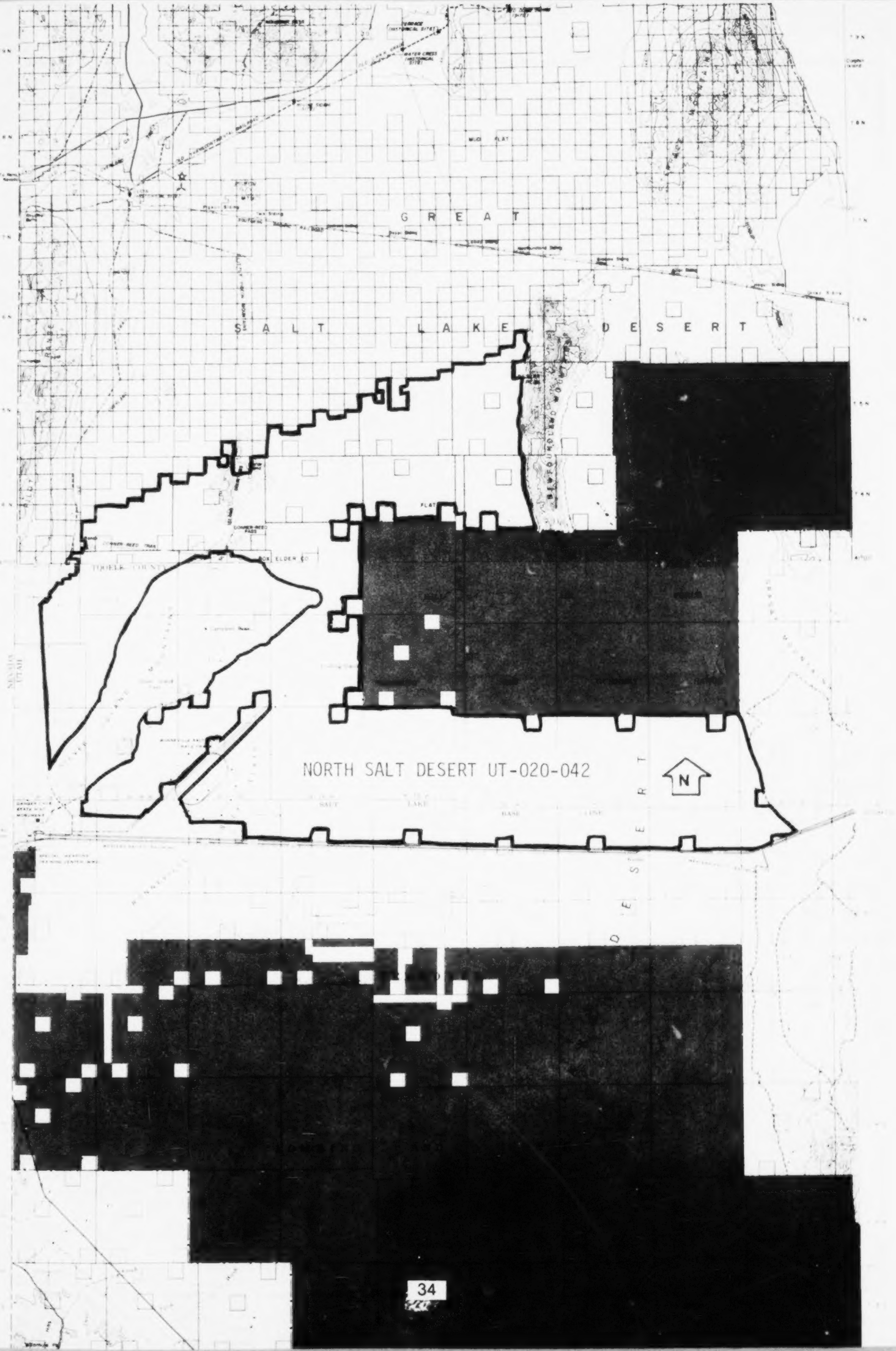
Miles of opportunity are available to those wishing to undertake historic trail interpretation. Hastings Cutoff, a route taken by a number of emigrant parties, runs the entire length of the unit. Tracks said to be those of the Donner-Reed Party are visible today, marking the trail cut into the desert mud by wagons and livestock 134 years ago.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Two comments were received addressing Unit UT-020-042; both emphasized the unit's "outstanding" solitude and unique supplemental values. Mentioned also, by one respondent, was the suggestion that the unit boundary be redrawn to eliminate the intrusions surrounding the unit.

4. DECISION: Dropped from further wilderness inventory and review.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: In reply to the two disagreeing comments, the Intensive Inventory narrative agreed that indeed the supplemental values of Unit 042 are unique and "outstanding." Redrawing the unit boundary, however, would not eliminate the imprints of man which impact the remainder of the unit, nor would a boundary adjustment improve upon the limited solitude or the limited recreation potential of the unit.

Unit size, unquestionably, is substantial. Naturalness, on the other hand, is no longer affected primarily by the forces of nature. Man's impacts not only surround the unit, but crisscross the interior of the unit as well. Some opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation exist only if the unit is restricted to extremely light use. Even at that, the sights and sounds from above and the user's tracks below, combine to impact further the frail landscape. The opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are not considered to be "outstanding."



GREAT
SALT LAKE DESERT
NORTH SALT DESERT UT-020-042
N

UNIT NO. UT-020-087 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: NORTH CEDAR MOUNTAINS UNIT ACREAGE: 16,089

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: Unit 087 is located in the north-central portion of Tooele County, Utah, approximately 58 miles east of Wendover and 60 miles west of Salt Lake City, via Interstate-80. Located at the northern end of the Cedar Mountain Range, Unit 087 is basically polygonal in shape. Dimensions vary, depending on directions measured, but approximates for general description are 5.5 miles wide and 7.0 miles long.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISITCS

A. SIZE: The unit contains 16,089 acres of Public Land and encloses approximately 1,920 acres of private land. State land is not found in the unit.

B. NATURALNESS: The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable in the North Cedar Mountains. The cumulative effect of many minor and some large impacts are considerably evident within the relatively small unit.

Some interior hillsides are untrammeled by man and affected by the forces of nature. However, because of the openness and exposure to other imprints, a feeling of sublime naturalness is lacking.

Twenty-seven impacts or activities were identified; a cumulative network of over 11 miles of "ways" were recorded within the unit's boundaries. Lee's Canyon "way" follows a drainage and cuts a six-mile path through the southeast end of the North Cedars, impacting in its course the 5,000 acre parcel making up that end of the unit. Other imprints along this access route includes quarries, livestock trails, and motorcycle paths.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

(1) SOLITUDE: The upper elevations and inner portion of the unit provide scattered opportunities for solitude. Occasional vegetative covering, mountainous topography, and lack of penetrating roads, are evident. The lower, outside portions of the unit lack outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the sparse vegetative cover, relative open terrain and the cumulative effect of many impacts in the unit.

Feelings of isolation are seldom complimented by winding canyons. Vegetation canopies and screening are lacking, and therefore do not aid in an outstanding feeling of solitude.

(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation which exist in the North Cedars are hunting, horseback riding, hiking, wildlife observation and sightseeing. However, these opportunities are not considered "outstanding" by the wilderness inventory teams. Wildlife populations and numbers are few. Terrain for hiking and horseback riding is not unique in nature and does not provide outstanding opportunities for these recreation types. Sightseeing is encumbered by many outside activities and interior impacts of man.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Rock windows, sawtooth ridges and small caves carved in cliffs and terraces are common throughout the northern section of the unit. These are all remnants, displays cut by either the Bonneville or Provo levels of ancient Lake Bonneville, and are considered to be typical geological formations, common to the Bonneville Basin, and characteristic to all 14 units undergoing intensive inventory on the Salt Lake District.

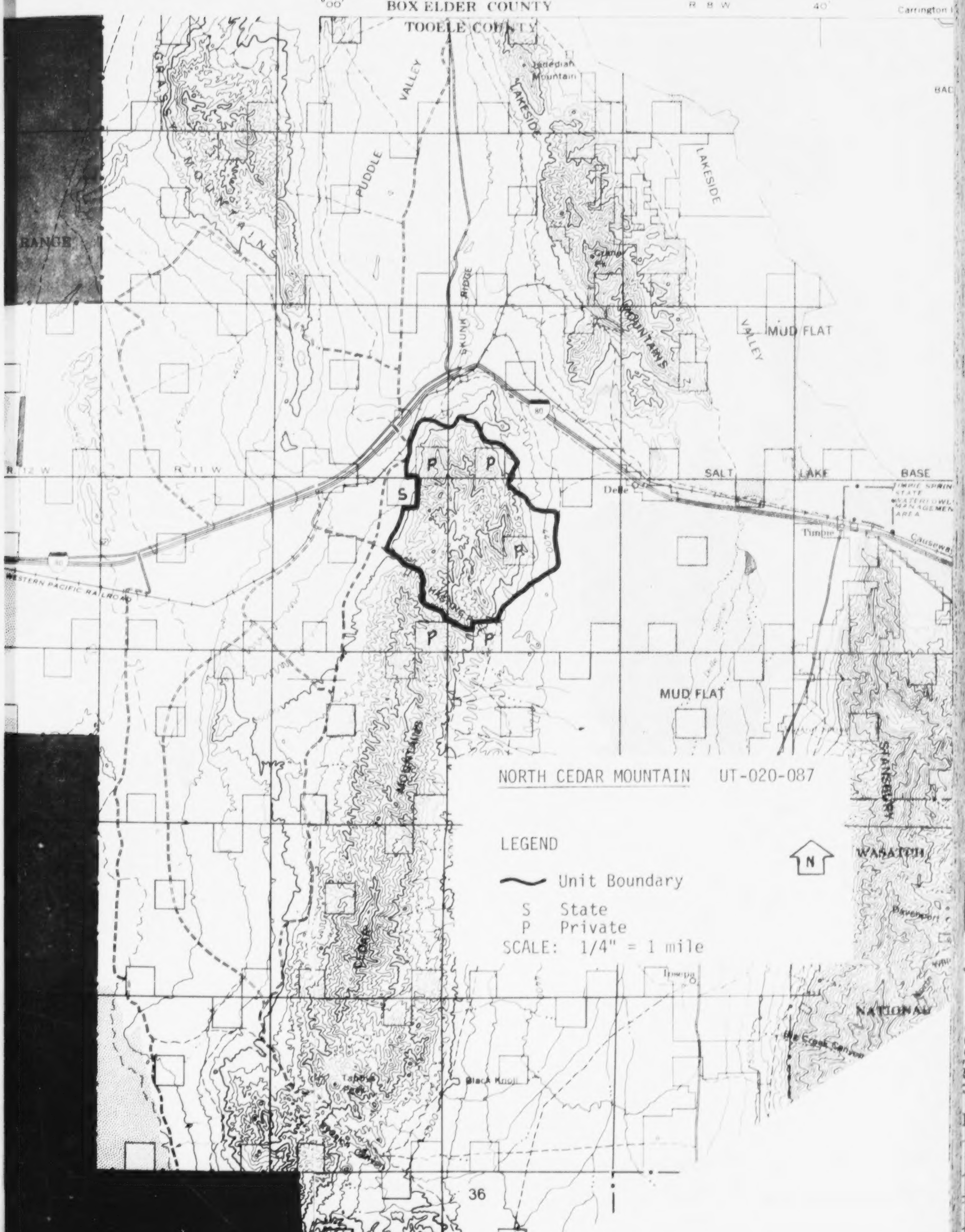
Modern history, too, has left its imprint upon the unit. Hastings Pass, today dividing the two Cedar Mountains units, was once the route taken by a number of pioneers attempting to shorten their journey to California. Those interested in historical trail interpretation might find this portion of the Hastings Cutoff somewhat intriguing.

Mining operations have been digging Aragonite along the south end of the unit since 1895. Old buildings, pits and assorted prospects remain as a legacy to past ambitions.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: No specific comments were received. Recognition was given to this unit only by those who commented generally, listing all units by number and stating that these units should be considered for Wilderness Study Area designation.

4. DECISION: Dropped from further wilderness inventory and review.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Size and naturalness, to a degree, have placed this unit into the intensive inventory phase of the wilderness review. The lack of "outstanding" potential, or opportunity for solitude and/or a primitive and unconfined recreational experience should drop it from further wilderness inventory consideration. Man's imprints are substantially noticeable within the unit. Natural screening contributes little to hide or enclose man and his contrasting influences. Recreation opportunities exist but all are encumbered by man's developments.


BOX ELDER COUNTY
TOOELE COUNTY
R 10 W
R 9 W
R 8 W
Jedediah Mountain
GRASSY MOUNTAINS
PUDDLE VALLEY
LAKESIDE
LAKESIDE VALLEY
RANGE
SKUNK RIDGE
MOUNTAINS
MUD FLAT
R 12 W
R 11 W
SALT LAKE BASE
Delle
Timpie
WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD
MUD FLAT
CEDAR MOUNTAINS
STANSBURY
WASATCH
NATIONAL
Black Knoll
NORTH CEDAR MOUNTAIN UT-020-087
LEGEND
Unit Boundary
S State
P Private
SCALE: 1/4" = 1 mile
N

UNIT NO.: UT-020-089 WSA ACREAGE: 10,480

UNIT NAME: NORTH STANSBURY UNIT ACREAGE: 10,480

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in the northeastern quadrant of Tooele County, 5 miles southeast of Timpie, 10 miles west of Grantsville, or 40 miles west of Salt Lake City. It is the northern extension of the Stansbury Mountain Range, a typical desert locked, north-south trending mountain, characteristic of the mountain-valley geomorphology found throughout the Basin and Range province. Eleva- varies from 8,800 feet in the south, on the U.S.F.S. boundary, to 5,200 feet along the base of the unit.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 10,480 acres of Public Land. No private land inholdings exist in this unit.

B. NATURALNESS: Most of man's imprints were drawn out of Unit 089 during the initial inventory. Three miles of "ways", two of which are located in the mouth of Muskrat Canyon, make up the entirety of impacts contained within the W.S.A. boundary. Restoration of these impacts are considered to be possible by the use of hand labor or natural processes. The unit is primarily a single promontory from which a myriad of natural scenic vistas are possible.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

(1) SOLITUDE: Solitude in the North Stansbury Unit is a product of the unit's topographic configuration. Screening, both topographic and vegetative, does exist in scattered locations. The unit ridgeline is supported at the flanks by steep, sparsely vegetated slopes which are separated by rugged canyons, the north exposures of which provide a conifer of mixed conifer-riparian woodland capable of sustaining a feeling of isolation or seclusion.

(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined recreational experience does exist. Hiking, hunting on foot or on horseback, horseback riding for pleasure, photography, rock hounding and camping all occur in the unit.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Cultural and historical values are unknown, but the possibility of either or both is good when one considers the location and biological assets to be found in the unit. Ecological values are overtly displayed as the unit rises through a spectrum of at least three growth or life zones.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Fourteen comments were received for Unit UT-020-089. Thirteen supported the B.L.M.'s Wilderness Study Area recommendation, April, 1980. The remaining comment did not feel the unit had outstanding qualities "when compared to other areas in the state".

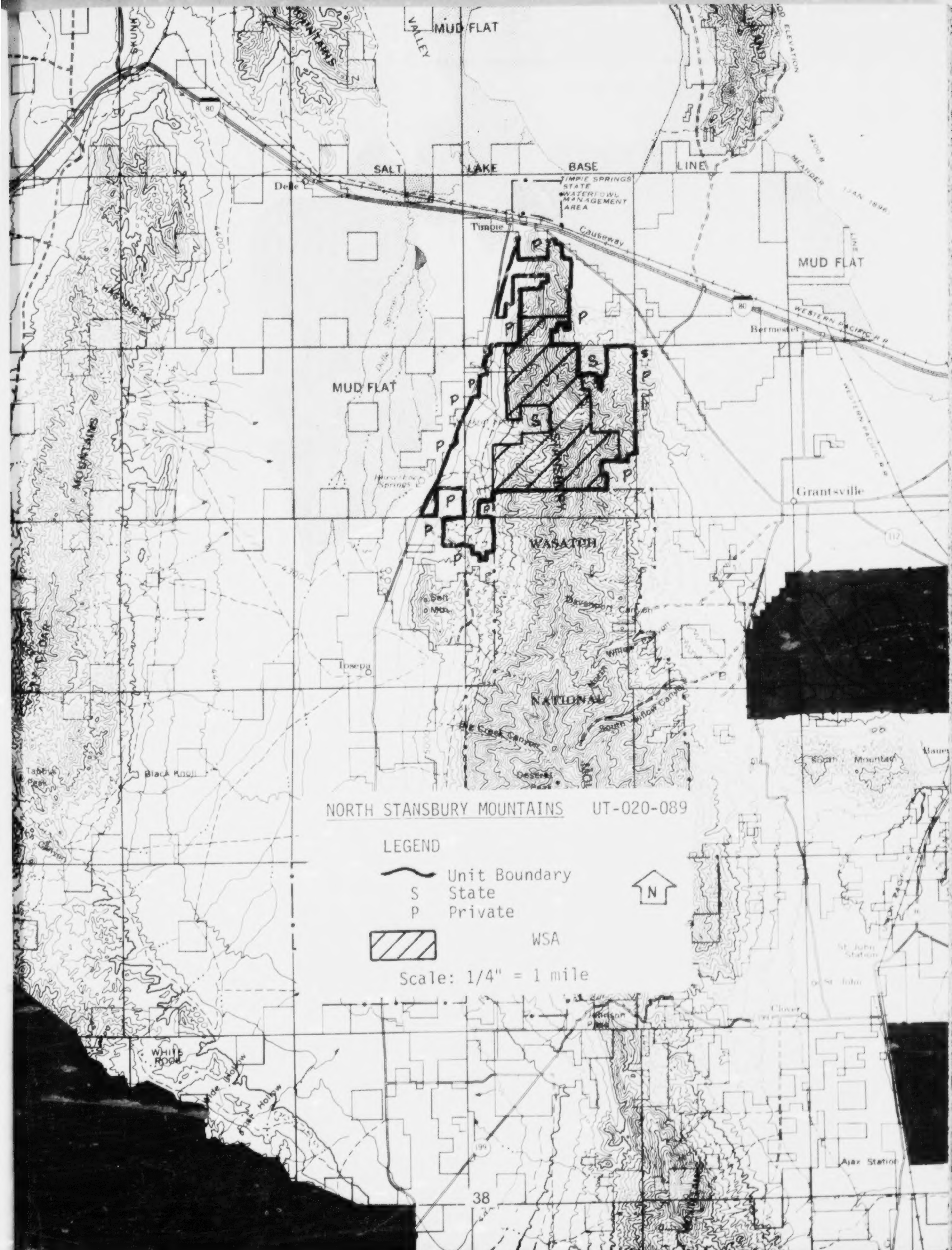
4. DECISION: To be retained in the wilderness inventory and reviewed as a Wilderness Study Area.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Thirteen of the fourteen who commented supported the B.L.M.'s W.S.A. recommendation, April, 1980.

In reply to the disagreeing comment, the Organic Act Directive No. 87-61, Change 2, page 3, clearly states that there must be no comparison between units.

This unit is contiguous to the U. S. Forest Service Wilderness Proposal, Stansbury Mountains R.A.R.E. II No. 4-757. The recommended portion of the unit is in a natural condition while areas impacted by man's work are considered restorable by the use of hand labor or natural processes. The opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation were found to be "outstanding."

Note: The inventory unit boundary as shown on the 1/4" scale map published in April was in error. The boundary has been adjusted to correct this error. No change has occurred in the WSA boundary.



MUD FLAT
VALLEY
SKUNK
SALT LAKE BASE LINE
TIMPIE SPRINGS STATE WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA
Delle
Timpie
Causeway
MUD FLAT
Bermester
WESTERN PACIFIC R.R.
MUD FLAT
MOUNTAINS
Grantsville
WASATCH
NATIONAL
Iosepa
Black Knoll
Davenport Canyon
South Willow Canyon
Big Creek Canyon
Salt Mtn.
South Mountain
Clover
St. John Station
Ajax Station
WHITE ROCK
Johnson Pass
NORTH STANSBURY MOUNTAINS UT-020-089
LEGEND
Unit Boundary
S State
P Private
WSA
N
Scale: 1/4" = 1 mile

UNIT NO.: UT-020-094 WSA ACREAGE: 50,500

UNIT NAME: CEDAR MOUNTAINS UNIT ACREAGE: 63,610

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: Unit 094 is located in east-central Tooele County, Utah, and consists of Public Land in the central portion of the Cedar Mountains, (approximately 21 miles long and 6.50 miles wide) between Hastings Pass on the north, and Rydalch Pass on the south.

The Cedar Mountains are located near the eastern edge of the Great Basin Province, and nearly dead center in the middle of the Bonneville Basin, or that expanse once covered by the waters of Lake Bonneville.

Generally, gradient is not steep as it rises gently from alkaline flats. Terrain consists of heavily eroded, rolling hills. Relief is not spectacular; there is, however, a prominant though not exceedingly pronounced rise in elevation. From the unit's low point on the east side (4,500 feet) to Cedar Peak (7,712), a 3,200 foot rise is spread along approximately a four-mile climb.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 63,610 acres of Public Land and encloses approximately 5,880 acres of private land. No state land inholdings exist.

B. NATURALNESS: Basic configuration of the Cedars consists of a single ridgeline. Throughout 094, elevation at the crest is relatively uniform; numerous points along the main ridge rise above 6,800 feet.

Few roads or "ways" are found in the unit; none penetrate the heart of the unit as all lead to springs or mining developments.

Mining in Cedar Mountains has not been extensive. There is, however, a localized and heavily impacted corridor involving those sections bordering on the Hastings Pass Road.

Nine isolated or land locked private sections, along with three 40 acre parcels, constitute a scattering of intrusions. Other private properties, border the unit on all but the south side, giving the boundary an occasional blocky appearance.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

(1) SOLITUDE: Vegetative screening among the large open area of gentle, lower slopes of the Cedars provide no line of sight distractions. As contours build and soils improve, sage, rabbit-brush, Ephedra and wheatgrasses combine with individual juniper to partition the landscape. At 4900 feet, gradient becomes more pronounced; outwash fades into canyons; washes and gullies gain definition and narrow, occasionally twisting to baffle or separate special perspective.

Between 5,200 feet and 6,400 feet the juniper thicken to provide a dominant vegetative cover. Canyon bottoms, ridges and north exposures display a patchy juniper belting that encircles the unit within the Upper Sonoran and the Transition life zones.

At higher elevations (above 6,600 feet) slopes are unshaded, often bare, especially on south exposures. Stands of trees seldom develop; patterns are spotty, providing mottled color variations but little defined canopy or seclusion. The ridgeline consists of a rounded, open topography that offers a variety of desert vistas which give the visitor a feeling of separation or freedom.

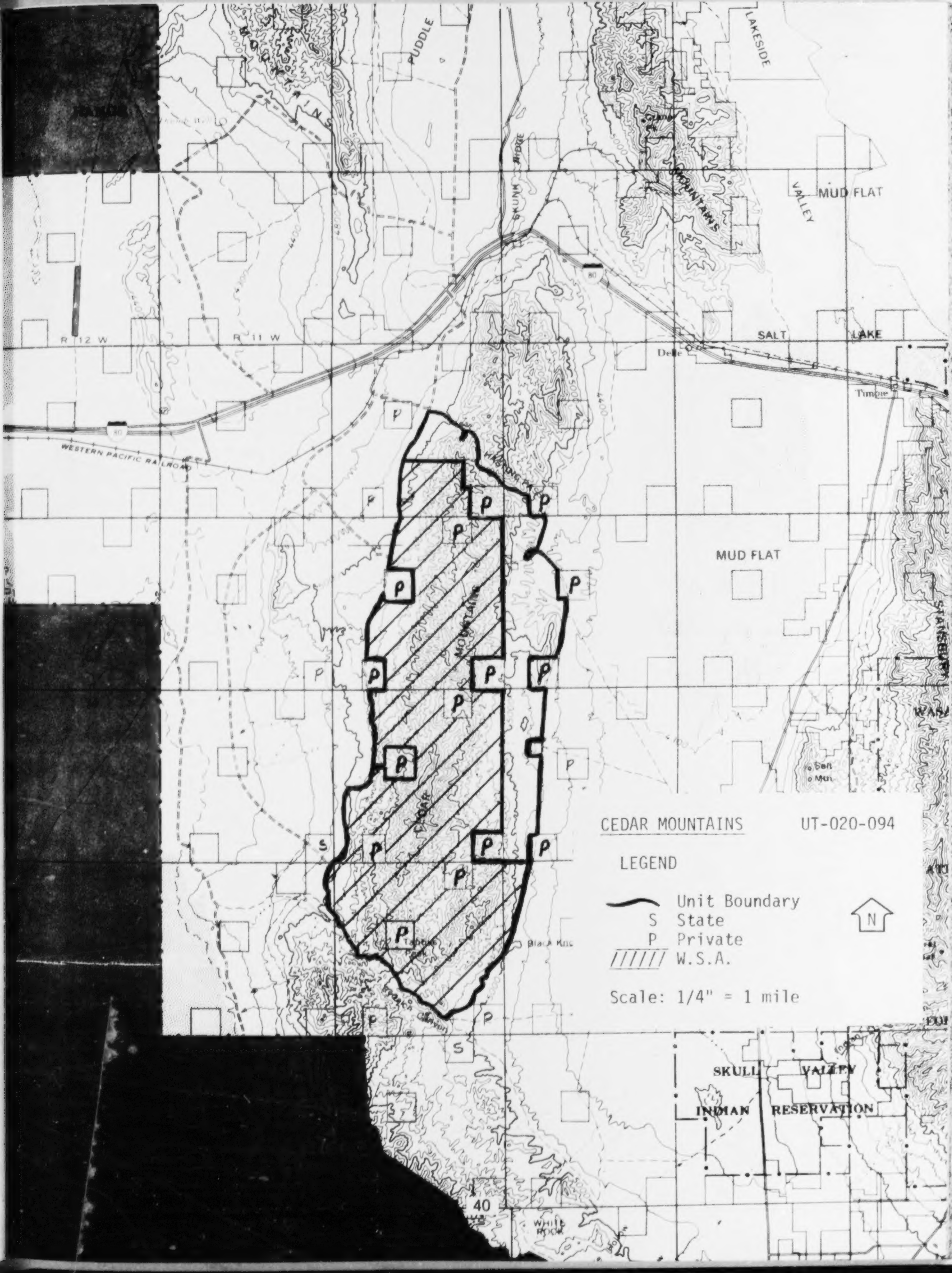
(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Recreation in Unit 094 is available. Use is multiple and quality or potential varies through degrees of poor to good, though none is "outstanding".

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Ecological and educational values might be placed on the wild and free roaming horses ranging throughout the length of the Cedar Mountains. The number is not exactly known, but a fairly accurate estimate was placed, last fall, at 200. Other supplemental values are not significant.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS. Thirty-four comments were received, thirty-three for and one against Wilderness Study Area identification for the Cedar Mountains. Eleven of those 33 generally stated a desire to see the Cedar Mountains become a Wilderness Study Area. The remaining 22 more specifically (three photographs or slides) addressed solitude and recreational potential in the unit, and strongly disagreed with the BLM's recommendation to drop Unit 094 from further wilderness inventory.

4. DECISION: A 50,500 acre portion is to be retained as a Wilderness Study Area.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All but one of the comments received supported W.S.A. identification. Those comments claiming the unit has "outstanding" opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation were substantiated by additional field examinations. Again Bureau personnel hiked and flew the unit's length and width; canyons chosen at random were explored for "outstanding" wilderness character. In final review of the additional field work, those participating agreed that "outstanding" solitude and recreational opportunities do exist in a part of the Cedar Mountains. The boundary has been adjusted to exclude the intruded lower elevations of the northeast portion of the unit where opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation are limited.


CEDAR MOUNTAINS
UT-020-094
LEGEND
Unit Boundary
S State
P Private
W.S.A.
Scale: 1/4" = 1 mile
N
PUDDLE
LAKESIDE
SKUNK RIDGE
MOUNTAINS
VALLEY
MUD FLAT
SALT
LAKE
Delle
Timpie
R 12 W
R 11 W
WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD
80
MUD FLAT
MOUNTAINS
CEDAR
Black Knl
SKULL
VALLEY
INDIAN
RESERVATION
40
WHITE ROCK

UNIT NO: UT-020-101 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: BIG CREEK UNIT ACREAGE: 3,941

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in the east-central part of Tooele County, Utah, approximately 19 miles north of the Dugway Proving Grounds HDDS, or 60 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. The unit is T-shaped, with the top of the T lying against the base of the Stansbury Mountains. The remainder of the unit extends west, from the foothills to the Skull Valley road below. Two thirds of the unit, about 2,800 acres, make up foothills or benchlands at the base of the Stansbury Mountains. Gradient is flat or gradually sloped to the west. Bisecting the gentle relief are a series of shallow washes or stream beds which originate at four springs along the base of the mountains or extend as outwash tributaries cut by three perennial streams, Spring Creek, Big Creek, and South Lost Creek. The remaining one-third of the unit, 1,100 acres, is a coalescence of alluvial fans (bahada) and a portion of the valley floor. Here too, gradient is slight and sloped to the west. The above mentioned streams and washes generally disappear along the lower limits of the alluvium, near the western extension of the unit.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 3,941 acres of public land.

B. NATURALNESS: The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable throughout most of the unit. The upper portions of the unit is nearly severed in two locations by maintained roads and waterlines. To the west, the lower portion of the unit is an open, unscreened pasture of grass, sage, and shadscale. "Ways" and fences cross and divide these sections in an irregular pattern. Other less noticeable impacts within Unit 101 are: 7.5 miles of "ways", 1.5 miles of fence, 1 mile of abandoned aqueduct, two juniper-pole harvest areas, and 18 sites of disturbance which might be classified as deer hunters' camps.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

(1) SOLITUDE: There is no question that the inner cores, or pockets of naturalness in the juniper benchland, provide a measure of solitude. The restricted size of these pockets, however, inhibit solitude quality to such an extent that the qualifying definition "outstanding" is lost in the realization that man's irreversible imprints, roads and waterlines, lie less than .5 miles to either side. Topographic relief and vegetative features are completely void in the lower sections of the unit. Anyone, anywhere in this portion is visible from the boundary of these two sections.

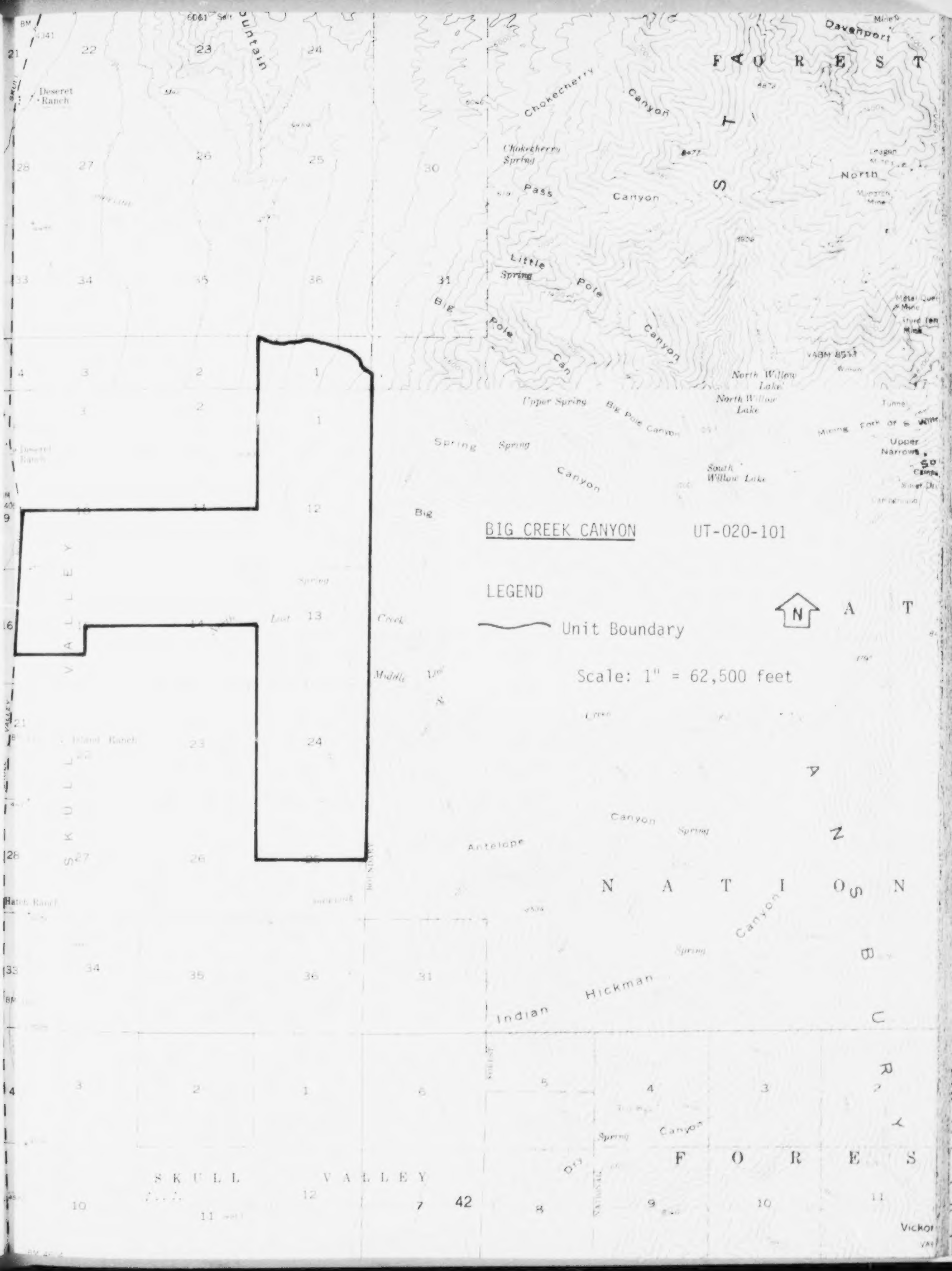
(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Recreation opportunities in the unit are limited by unit size and shape.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The foothills making up the majority of the unit are the same foothills that the hearty Hawaiian settlers of Iosepa farmed, hunted and exploited for water, firewood and timber from 1889 to 1916.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: No comments were received for this unit.

4. DECISION: Dropped from further wilderness inventory and review.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: By far the most noticeable and most permanent disturbances in Unit 101 are the two waterlines and their accompanying access roads. At first sight, there is no mistaking these imprints for anything other than major construction, and that they will remain and withstand all hand labor and/or natural restoration attempts. The opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation were not found to be "outstanding".


BIG CREEK CANYON
UT-020-101
LEGEND
Unit Boundary
Scale: 1" = 62,500 feet
N
Deseret Ranch
Chokecherry Canyon
Chokecherry Spring
Pass Canyon
Little Spring
Big Pole Canyon
Pole Canyon
North Willow Lake
South Willow Lake
Upper Spring
Davenport
North
Upper Narrows
Big Creek
Lost Creek
Middle
Antelope Canyon
Hickman Canyon
Indian
Dry Canyon
Island Ranch
Hatch Ranch
SKULL VALLEY
F O R E S T
N A T I O N A L
WASATCH
N A T I O N
F O R E S
Vickor

UNIT NO: UT-020-102 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: DRY CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 960

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in the east-central part of Tooele County, Utah, approximately 13.5 miles south and 5 miles east of Dugway Proving Grounds HDQS, or 65 highway miles southeast of Salt Lake City. The unit is a rectangularly shaped 1.5 section, and is 1.5 miles long and 1 mile wide, lying against the southwest base of the Stansbury Mountains. The north and east sides of 102 are contiguous with the Wasatch National Forest, while the south and west sides are contiguous with the Skull Valley Indian Reservation. A four-strand barbed wire fence borders the north, west and south sides of the reservation; the forest boundary is unfenced.

Topography in 102 is made up entirely of rolling foothills or transitional contouring between the steep mountain slopes and the outwash bahada. Drainage patterns follow the westerly aspect developing from shallow washes, on the forest, to 20 to 30 foot deep ravines as they wind through B.L.M. administered land to the Indian Reservation, Below. Vegetative cover is basically a patchy juniper forest with associated grasses and sage. The canyon and creek bottom contain both black and big sage, mixed with occasional juniper. No live streams exist within the unit.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 960 acres of contiguous BLM administered land.

B. NATURALNESS: The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable throughout most of the unit. A major road enters the unit from the Indian reservation and follows a dry creek bed in a northeasterly direction entering the USFS boundary. Built originally as a road for mountain access to wood, forage and big game, the principle use of the road the past three decades has been to serve deer hunters and mining interests on national forest land.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

(1) SOLITUDE: Overall the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. This is due primarily by its small size and lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening.

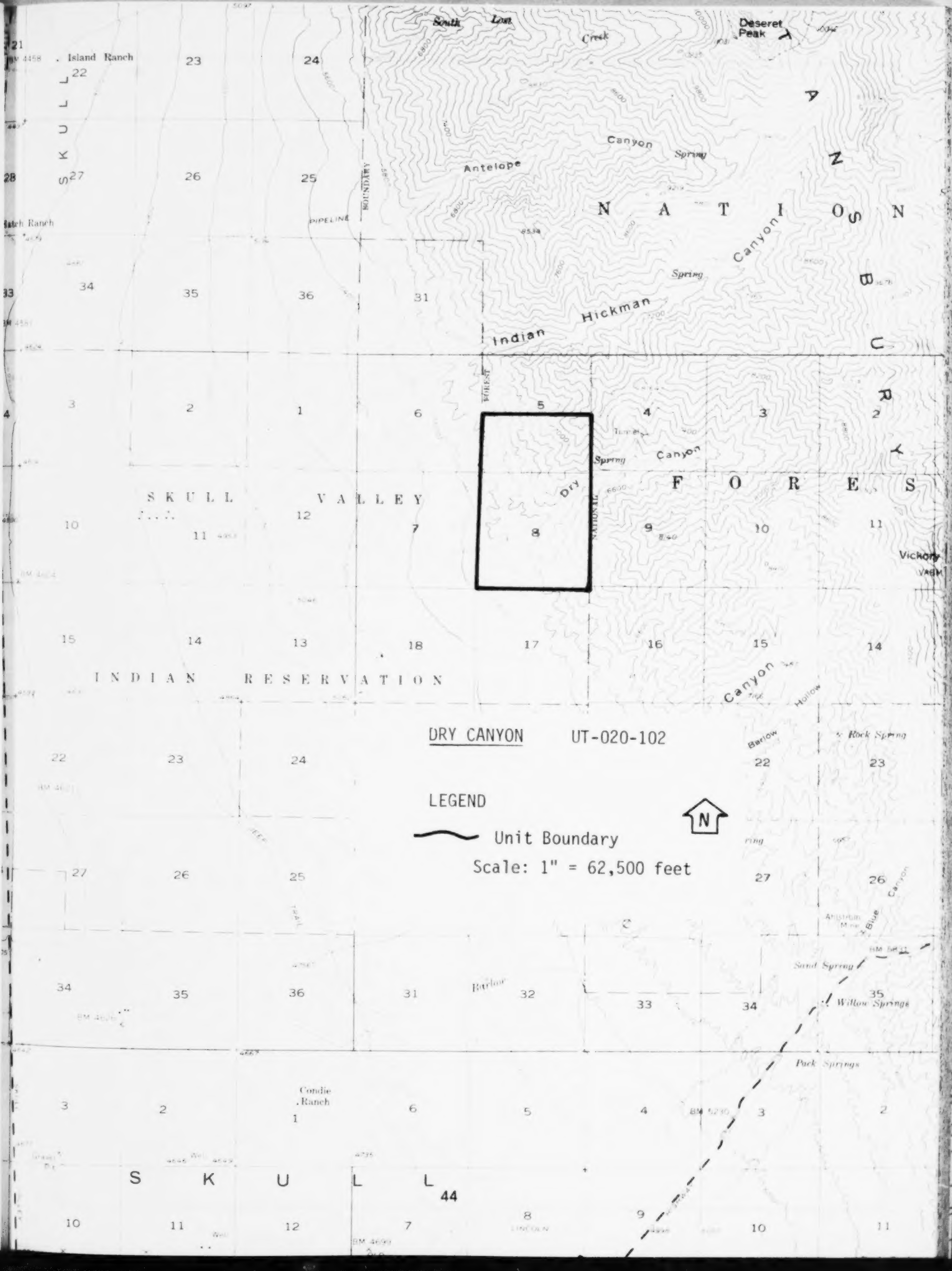
(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Hiking, horseback riding, rockhounding, hunting, photography, and sightseeing are all possible within the unit. The size of Unit 102, however, precludes the possibility of outstanding recreation experiences.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit deserves recognition as a scenic area if only because it lies adjacent to, and is geographically a part of, the highly scenic Stansbury Mountains.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: No comments were received for this unit.

4. DECISION: Dropped from further wilderness inventory and review.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The major road which traverses the unit along with the minimal size and lack of "outstanding" and primitive environment, all reveal the lack of required wilderness characteristics.


DRY CANYON
UT-020-102
LEGEND
Unit Boundary
Scale: 1" = 62,500 feet
N
SKULL VALLEY
INDIAN RESERVATION
WASATCH NATIONAL FOREST
SKULL
Island Ranch
Hatch Ranch
Condie Ranch
Deseret Peak
South Willow Creek
Antelope Canyon Spring
Indian Hickman Canyon
Spring
Dry Canyon
Spring Canyon
Barlow Canyon
Hollow
Rock Spring
Sand Spring
Willow Springs
Pack Springs
Vickory
PIPELINE
BOUNDARY
FOREST
NATIONAL

UNIT NO.: UT-020-105 WSA ACREAGE: 3,593

UNIT NAME: BIG HOLLOW UNIT ACREAGE: 3,593

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The Big Hollow Unit lies in the east-central part of Tooele County, Utah, 11 miles northeast of the Dugway Proving Grounds HDQS (English Village), or 55 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. The unit is rectangular in shape, 3.90 miles long, 2.75 miles wide, and is situated on the southern end of the Stansbury Mountain Range, between the U.S.F.S. boundary on the north and Highway 199 (at Johnson's Pass) on the south.

The backbone or ridgeline of the unit trends north and south, with canyons and outwash aspects dropping to the west, south and east. Morphological features vary from gentle hills and valleys to steep mountain slopes that reach a height of 9,200 feet. From a base of 5,831 feet, near Highway 199, a relief of 3,369 feet is calculated within a distance of 2 miles.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 3,593 acres of Public Land and encloses no state or private lands.

B. NATURALNESS: Unit 105 represents the south end of the Stansbury Mountains as a single decending ridgeline, from sub-alpine habitat on top to juniper forest along the highway. The rolling, and sometimes very rocky slopes sustain juniper, pinyon, mountain brush and various grasses. At higher altitudes pockets of fir and aspen add a sylvan touch to a rather arid, upper sonoran environment.

Most of man's imprints have been drawn out of the unit by the proposed Wilderness Study Area boundary. Two and a half miles of "ways," one and a half of which is located in Rock Springs Canyon, along with associated mining scars and a tin feed shed, make up the entirety of the impacts contained within the W.S.A. boundary. The remaining mile of "ways," is located on the east side of the unit in three separate canyons: 1. .50 miles in the West Fork of Clover Creek. 2. .25 miles in Vickory Canyon. 3. .25 miles in an unnamed draw north of Grantee Spring.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

(1) SOLITUDE: Vegetative cover is plentiful within the unit, but not to the degree that vegetative screening provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. There are, however, isolated dense stands of cedars that, when combined with canyon topography, provide screening sufficient to cover man made imprints and to separate recreationists.

With the exception of Vickory Canyon, valleys and canyons do not meander or wind deeply into the unit, and therefore do not add outstanding solitude and isolation through topographic or interior sculpturing. Ridgelines and slopes tend to be rounded and are covered by a variety of vegetation. Considering the small size of the unit, and the general openness of the hillsides, topographic screening provides little or no sensations of isolation from both inside impacts and outside activities.

(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: In general, the unit's terrain lends itself to an "outstanding" opportunity for primitive types of recreation such as hunting, hiking, horseback riding and backpacking. Day hiking, backpacking and horseback riding are basically the only three options available to those wishing to enter and enjoy the wilderness potential of Unit 105. Trails leading up Big Spring and Vickory Canyons provide immediate and outlined access to the Wasatch National Forest boundary, Vickory Peak and the eleven thousand foot peaks further north. Available too, are trail-free pinyon-juniper woodlands, open slopes and sylvan alpine settings, all of which add an option of variety to primitive and unconfined recreational expectations.

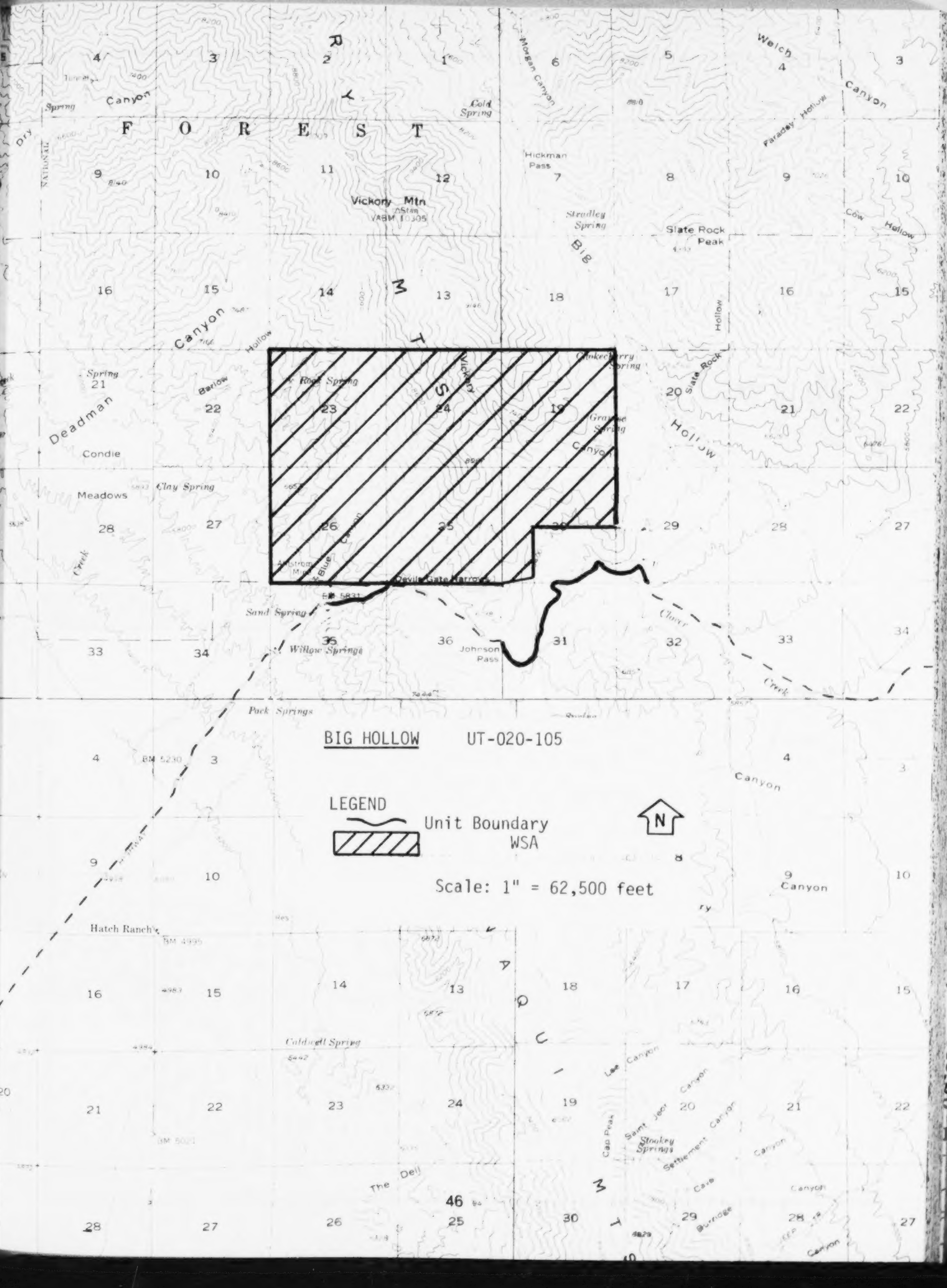
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Geological, educational and historical values may lie in a well screened cave near Rocky Springs. The site has not yet been evaluated or studied by BLM archaeologists. Studies are projected for the immediate future.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Fourteen comments were received for this unit. Eleven agreed with the BLM's Wilderness Study Area recommendation; the remaining three generally questioned unit size and the continuity of Unit 105 to the R.A.R.E. II 4-757, Stansbury Wilderness proposal.

4. DECISION: To be retained in the wilderness inventory and review as a Wilderness Study Area.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Though solitude was not considered to be "outstanding", all the other criteria, as outlined in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook and/or in the Organic Act Directives, meet W.S.A. specification. Size, though less than 5,000 acres, does fit the guidelines as outlined on page 12 of the W.I.H. Naturalness does exist; man's imprints are substantially unnoticeable and possibilities do exist for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Note: The inventory unit boundary as shown on the 1" scale map published in April was in error. The boundary has been adjusted to correct this error. No change has occurred in the WSA boundary.


BIG HOLLOW UT-020-105
LEGEND
Unit Boundary
WSA
N
Scale: 1" = 62,500 feet
F O R E S T
NATIONAL
Vickory Mtn
Hickman Pass
Stradley Spring
Slate Rock Peak
Welch Canyon
Faraday Hollow
Cow Hollow
Morgan Canyon
Cold Spring
Big Hollow
Slate Rock
Canyon
Barlow Hollow
Deadman Canyon
Spring
Condie Meadows
Clay Spring
Rock Spring
Chokecherry Spring
Grass Spring
Devils Gate Narrows
Sand Spring
Willow Springs
Johnson Pass
Clover Creek
Pack Springs
Hatch Ranch
Caldwell Spring
The Dell
Lee Canyon
Saint John Canyon
Cap Peak
Stookey Springs
Settlement Canyon
Cave
Burnidge
46

UNIT NO.: UT-020-111 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: ONAQUI MOUNTAINS UNIT ACREAGE: 60,018

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The Onaqui Mountain Unit is located in the eastcentral part of Tooele County, Utah. The community of Dugway lies six miles to the west, Salt Lake City lies 50 miles to the northeast.

Unit 111 is square with many irregular square and rectangular sectional adjustments outlining state and private land. Extending from Johnson Pass on the north to Rock Canyon Pass on the south, the unit is approximately 13 miles long and 12 miles wide. The Onaqui Mountain Range trends north and south. Aspects, however, are multiple as displayed by the many V-shaped canyons worn into the unit's girth. Topography is not extremely steep, nor is it covered by craggy cliffs, terraces or outstanding promontories.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 60,018 acres of public land and encloses approximately 2,585 acres of state lands, and 7,915 acres of private land.

B. NATURALNESS: The impacts of man are generally noticeable throughout; however, a few pockets of naturalness do remain. These are all under 5,000 acres in size, and are Hellhole Canyon, Big Canyon, Park Canyon South, Dry Canyon, the South Ridgeline and Cedar Rock Canyon.

There are two major water developments on the unit. The first is the Faust Canyon Spring Pipeline, and the second is the "two springs" development.

The mountain range is essentially surrounded by fences, most of which are four-strand barbed wire with metal or wooden posts. A total of 24 miles of fence are located within the unit.

Roads and "ways" create a network of access opportunities throughout the unit, including "ways" to the tops of Cap Peak and Stookey Peak, the high points in 111. A total of 89 miles of "ways" have been cut into the unit, many of which provide access to state or private lands. A total of 31 miles maintained roads provide additional access.

A Utah Power and Light Company line, consisting of four wires strung on 32 foot poles, bisects the east side of the Rush Valley flats before turning west to continue another nine miles into the unit. The line was built in 1969 and is currently maintained by a U.P. and L. access road that runs beneath the line.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

(1) SOLITUDE: Opportunities for solitude or isolation in 111 are limited and are considered to be less than "outstanding." The razor-back ridge effect of the north-south ridge exposes individuals to many impacts within the unit, including water developments, utility lines, roads, "ways" and fences.

The majority of the screening on southern slopes is limited to grasses and rock outcroppings. Some northern aspects are thick with stands or pockets of fir or quaking aspen. These areas, however, are relatively small and do not afford the seclusion or isolation associated with "outstanding" opportunities for solitude.

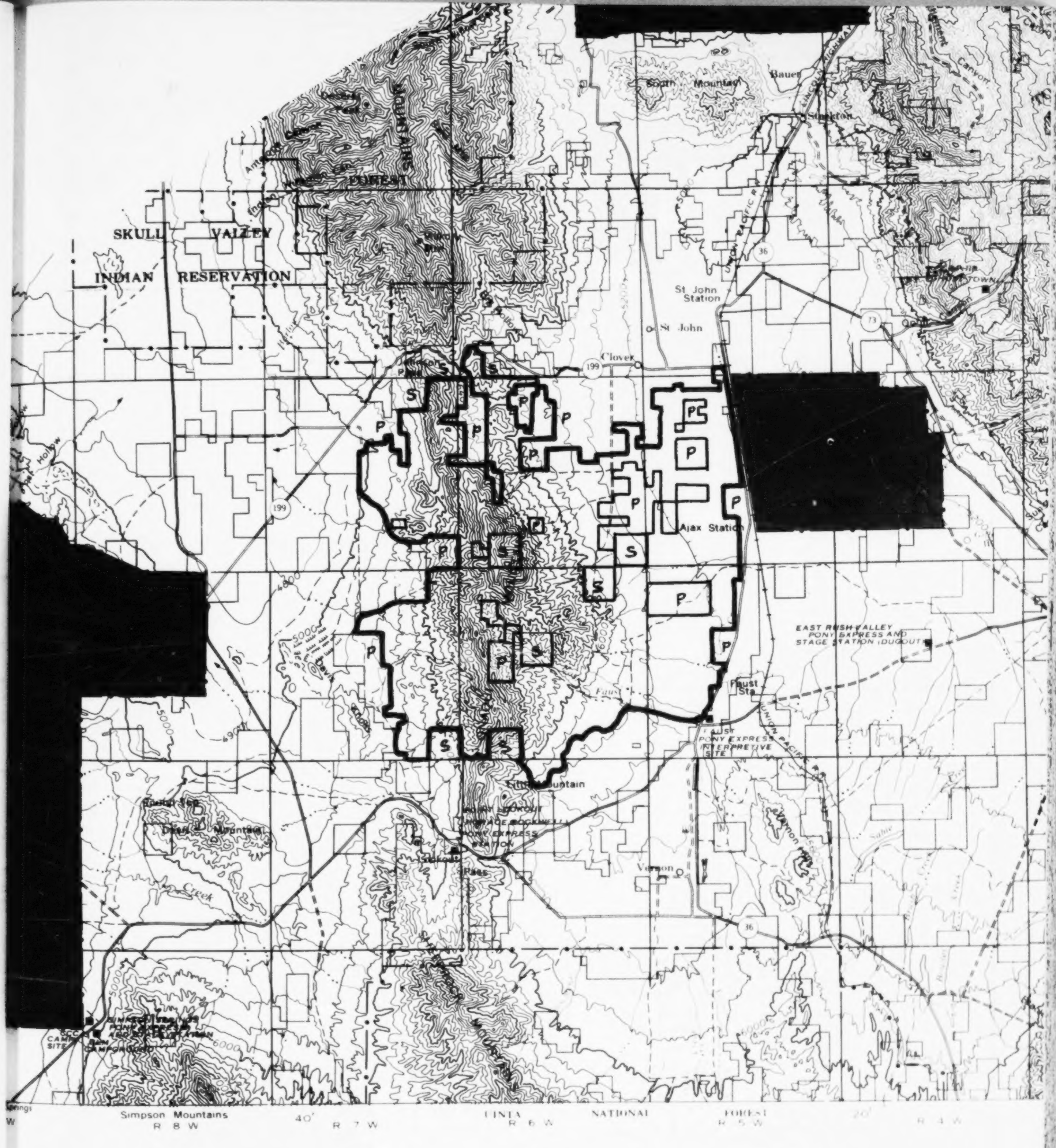
(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The general character of the Onaqui Unit limits outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. There are few water sources for campers or hikers. Opportunities are affected by chainings roads, fences, cattle grazing, water "improvements" and power lines; vegetative cover is sparse and limited to small pockets.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES. Approximately 20 head of wild horses (as of 08-25-79) inhabit the upper elevations of the Onaqui Mountains. These animals are considered to be of "primitive" value in the Onaqui-Oquirrh P.A.A. and Ecological Profile (1976, Salt Lake District).

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: No comments were received for this unit.

4. DECISION: Dropped from further wilderness inventory and review.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISIONS: Naturalness in the unit is severly affected by man's varied improvements and impacts on the landscape. Screening is weak; vegetative and topographic separation are confined to isolated pockets; "outstanding" opportunities for either solitude or recreation are not complemented by the open slopes and unnatural conditions so noticeably displayed throughout the unit.



ONAQUI MOUNTAINS UT-020-111

LEGEND

Unit Boundary
S State
P Private

Scale: 1/4" = 1 mile

UNIT NO.: UT-020-129 and UT-050-130A WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: DUGWAY MOUNTAINS UNIT ACREAGE: 20,638

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: Unit UT-020-129, the Dugway Mountain Range, is a bi-district and bi-county unit that straddles the Tooele/Juab County line immediately south of the Dugway Proving Ground and Gunnery Range. The unit is approximately 20 miles east of Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, 30 miles southwest of the Dugway Headquarters (English Village), 60 miles northwest of Delta, or 90 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. Trending west of north and then bending due south, the unit displays a relief of 2,530 feet if measured from the desert floor, on the west side of the unit, to Castle Peak, the unit's high point. Topography is generally a mountain-and-mountain-valley mixture separated by two north-south ridgelines that merge north of Green Grass Valley (Tooele County) to become a dominant, single ridgeline that probably best expresses unit topographic character.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 20,638 acres of public land, and encloses approximately 640 acres of state land and 235 acres of private land.

B. NATURALNESS: Lying on the east side of the Basin and Range Province, the Dugways are a faulted, tilted monocline with relative uplift on the east and accompanying dip on the west. Vegetation varies from salt tolerant plants along the unit's base to merging foothill associations of shadscale, black sage and horsebrush. Juniper becomes abundant above 5,600 feet, again associated with blacksage. Bigsage and Ephedra vegetate some canyon bottoms.

Drainage patterns course east and west, generally following at right angles to the mountain's north-south axis. As the range turns to the northwest, gullies, washes and canyons turn accordingly, falling to the northeast and southwest.

Mining has been the primary impact for more than a century. Nineteen miles of "ways" impact canyons and boulder strewn gullies on all sides of the unit. Maintained roads do not penetrate beyond one-half mile.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

(1) SOLITUDE: The Dugway Mountains are characterized by steep, rocky terrain enclosing broad, relatively unscreened valleys. As outlined last spring (79), in the initial inventory evaluation, and confirmed in the intensive inventory: "The slopes are thinly vegetated; the natural screening effect is poorly defined. As open landscape magnifies point to point perception, distorting distances and restricting what isolation or seclusion one might find...."

As in the other Salt Lake District units, sites and sound above the Dugways are substantial. Air Force low-level (below 100 feet) sub and supersonic flights cross the unit daily.

(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Hiking and backpacking might be pursued by those wishing to explore for a day or two; beyond that time-frame the experience might be restricted by unit size, lack of water, topographic diversity or challenge.

Upland game hunting is considered fair. Hunting pressures and success ratios are unknown.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None noted.

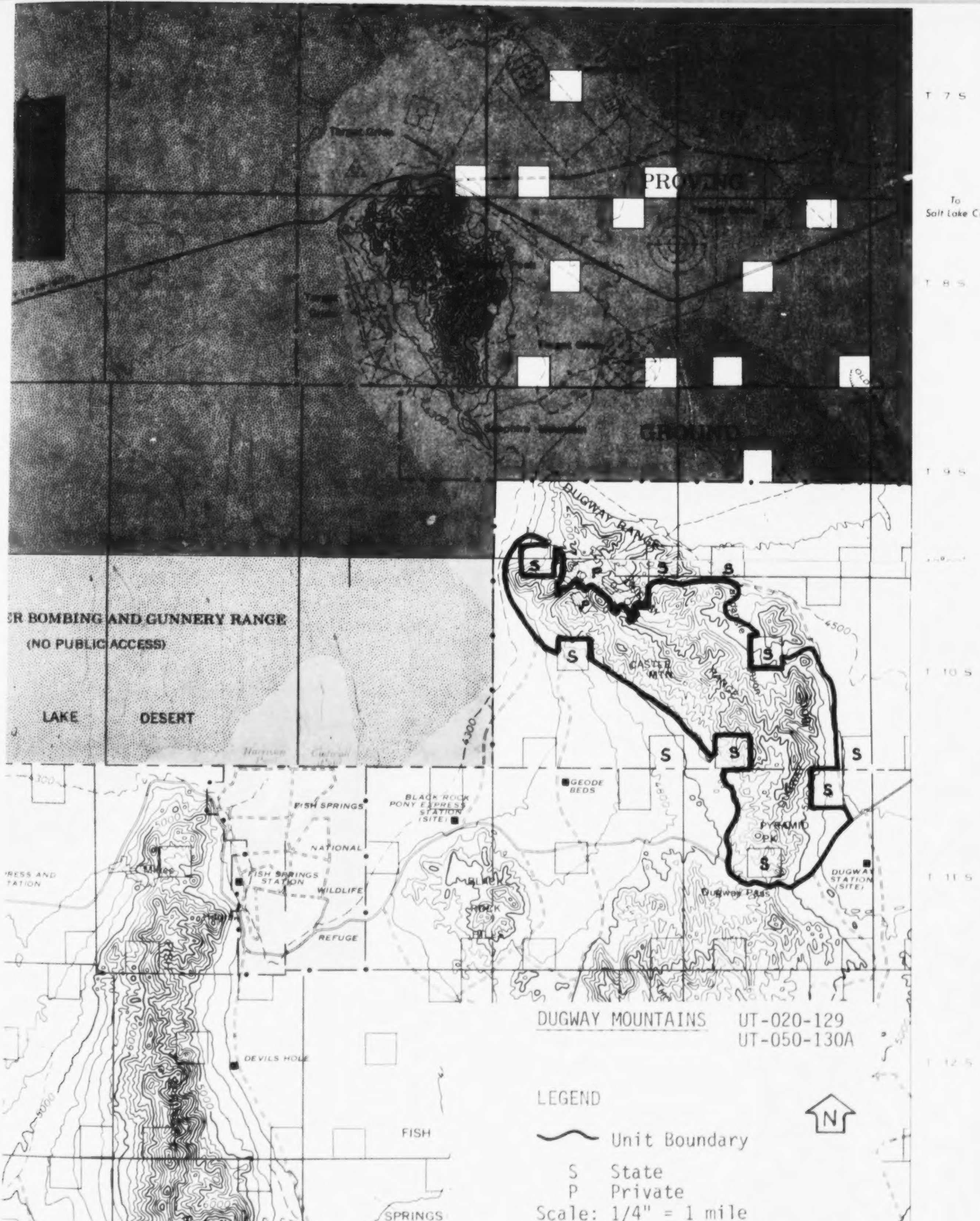
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS:

Twenty-nine comments were received, 26 for and 3 against wilderness study area identification. Eight of those 26 were of a general nature stating only that the Dugway Mountains should become a W.S.A. The remaining 18 were more detailed, emphasizing (three by photograph and/or sketch) their disagreement with the BLM's recommendation to drop the unit from further wilderness study, and adding that the unit indeed does possess "outstanding" solitude and an "outstanding" opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

4. DECISION: Dropped from further wilderness inventory and review.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: In reviewing the 26 comments in favor of a Dugway Mountains W.S.A., the BLM found no additional information that would change the Intensive Inventory recommendation to drop the Dugway Mountains from further wilderness inventory and review. Although 18 of 26 comments addressed "outstanding" potential for recreation and/or solitude, none established proof or evidence to substantiate the fact that "outstanding' opportunities are present.

As stated in the BLM's Intensive Inventory narrative, vegetative screening is scattered, often confined to grasses and sage dotted by occasional juniper trees. Topographic screening is acknowledged, but isolated, separating broad, open valleys. A recreational potential exists but is not considered to be "outstanding." One's opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds, or evidence of others, is severely restricted by poor screening, military presence, unit configuration and the lack of spatial separation.



PROVING
GROUND
T 7 S
To Salt Lake Cit
T 8 S
T 9 S
T 10 S
T 11 S
T 12 S
ER BOMBING AND GUNNERY RANGE
(NO PUBLIC ACCESS)
LAKE
DESERT
DUGWAY RANGE
CASTER MTN
PYRAMID PK
Dugway Pass
DUGWAY STATION (SITE)
GEODE BEDS
BLACK ROCK PONY EXPRESS STATION (SITE)
FISH SPRINGS
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE
FISH SPRINGS STATION
DEVILS HOLE
FISH
SPRINGS
FLAT
4300
4500
DUGWAY MOUNTAINS UT-020-129
UT-050-130A
LEGEND
Unit Boundary
S State
P Private
Scale: 1/4" = 1 mile
N
BRUSH BERYLLIUM ROAD To Lynndyl

CEDAR CITY DISTRICT

Intensive Inventory

Inventory Number	Unit Name	Identified as a WSA	Not Identified as a WSA
UT-040-041B	Black Ridge-LaVerkin		X
UT-040-061	Steep Creek	X	
UT-040-074	Colt Mesa		X
UT-040-075	Horse Spring Canyon		X
UT-040-076	Carcass Canyon	X	
UT-040-077	Mud Spring Canyon	X	
UT-040-078	Death Ridge		X
UT-040-079	Burning Hills		X
UT-040-080	Fifty Mile Mountain	X	
UT-040-081	Allen Dump		X
UT-040-082	Scorpion	X	
UT-040-085	Dance Hall Rock		X
UT-040-087	Sooner Water		X
UT-040-088	Sooner Bench		X
UT-040-089	Willow Gulch		X
UT-040-090	Cave Point		X
UT-040-091	Fifty Mile Creek		X
UT-040-092	Coyote Gulch		X
UT-040-104	Mountain Home Range		X
UT-040-132	Red Mountain	X	
UT-040-134	Quail Draw		X
UT-040-135	East Mesa		X
UT-040-137	Canaan Gap		X
UT-040-138	Cottonwood Canyon		X
UT-040-142	Crater Hill		X
UT-040-143	Canaan Mountain	X	
UT-040-144	Shunes Hollow		X
UT-040-145	Orderville Canyon	X	
UT-040-146	Deep Creek	X	
UT-040-147	Red Butte	X	
UT-040-148	Spring Canyon	X	
UT-040-149	The Watchman	X	
UT-040-150	North Fork Virgin River	X	
UT-040-153	LaVerkin Creek Canyon	X	
UT-040-154	Taylor Creek Canyon	X	
UT-040-155	Sunset Canyon		X
UT-040-173	Shunesburg		X
UT-040-174	Jolley Gulch		X
UT-040-175	Home Valley Knoll		X
UT-040-176	Goose Creek Canyon	X	
UT-040-177	Beartrap Canyon	X	
UT-040-179	Rockville Bench		X
UT-040-204B	Central Wah Wah Range		X
UT-040-216	White Rock Range	X	
UT-040-217	Moquith Mountain	X	

CEDAR CITY DISTRICT

Intensive Inventory

Inventory Number	Unit Name	Identified as a WSA	Not Identified as a WSA
UT-040-218	Bull Pasture		X
UT-040-219	Shinarump Cliffs		X
UT-040-223	Muggins Flat		X
UT-040-224	Pasture Canyon		X
UT-040-226	Buckskin Mountains		X
UT-040-230	Parunuweap Canyon	X	
UT-040-235	Flood Canyon		X
UT-040-245	Brigham Plains		X
UT-040-246	Nephi Wash		X
UT-040-247	Paria-Hackberry	X	
UT-040-248	Wahweap		X
UT-040-249	Coyote Creek		X
UT-040-255	Upper Kanab Creek		X
UT-040-266	East of Bryce		X
UT-040-268	The Blues	X	
UT-040-274	Pine Hollow Canyon		X

UNIT NO.: UT-040-041B WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: BLACK RIDGE - LA VERKIN CREEK UNIT ACREAGE: 15,668

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in Washington County and is contiguous to Zion National Park. The unit includes the Black Ridge east of Interstate Highway 15.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 15,668 acres of public lands and encloses 640 acres of state lands.

Unit UT-040-041B includes former unit UT-040-178. The intensive inventory was unable to locate the mapped boundary road between the two units. Former unit UT-040-178 contained 310 acres of public lands and was contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit includes four ways or groups of ways which represent major imprints of man. An abandoned way of five miles in LaVerkin Creek canyon extends south to north from section 7 into Zion National Park. This way is located on the west bank of LaVerkin Creek. Near the Zion National Park boundary, the way is joined by 2½ miles of several other ways. In accord with OAD 78-61, change 2 (p. 5), the boundaries of the areas exhibiting the naturalness characteristic have been relocated to the physical edges of this way.

In section 25 of the extreme southern portion of the unit, a way extends beyond a television relay station. The boundary has been relocated to the edges of this way and station. Another substantially noticeable way of three miles exists between Interstate 15 and Black Ridge in the northwestern portion of the unit. The area of 354 acres between the way and I-15 has been deleted because it is less than 5000 acres in size. Similarly, a noticeable way on Hurricane Mesa in the extreme eastern portion of the unit effectively deletes two small parcels on Hurricane Mesa (seven and 31 acres) from the unit.

The location of the LaVerkin Creek canyon way has the effect of dividing the unit into two areas possessing the naturalness characteristic. The eastern area of 2632 acres includes LaVerkin Creek and the eastern side of LaVerkin Creek canyon. Although it is less than 5000 acres in size, it is contiguous with the Zion National Park wilderness proposal. The western area of 12,431 acres includes the west bank of LaVerkin Creek canyon and Black Ridge. This tract is only ¼ of a mile wide at section 26 near its center. The total area possessing the naturalness characteristic is 15,063 acres in size.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The west tract consists of the Hurricane Cliffs (west face of Black Ridge), the narrow ridgeline of Black Ridge south of the private lake in section 29, a plateau type summit north of the lake, and lava flows on the east slope of Black Ridge. It would be difficult to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people on the narrow ridgeline or on the face of the Hurricane Cliffs because of the high visibility of any visitor in these areas. The sagebrush covered plateau north of the lake does not possess sufficient vegetative screening to provide an opportunity for solitude. Although the lava flows on the east slope provide a degree of solitude the opportunity here for solitude could not be considered outstanding.

The east tract includes LaVerkin Creek and the east wall of its canyon. LaVerkin Creek itself does not provide a superior opportunity for solitude. The east wall of the canyon is a fairly steep, exposed, and barren slope and would offer no opportunity for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The west tract of naturalness offers limited opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Hiking the ridgetop or sightseeing and photography of scenic geological features such as the adjacent Zion National Park, the Hurricane Cliffs and I-15, or the lava flows are possible. Neither of these activities are individually of outstanding quality. Furthermore, this area does not possess a diversity of primitive and unconfined recreational activity types.

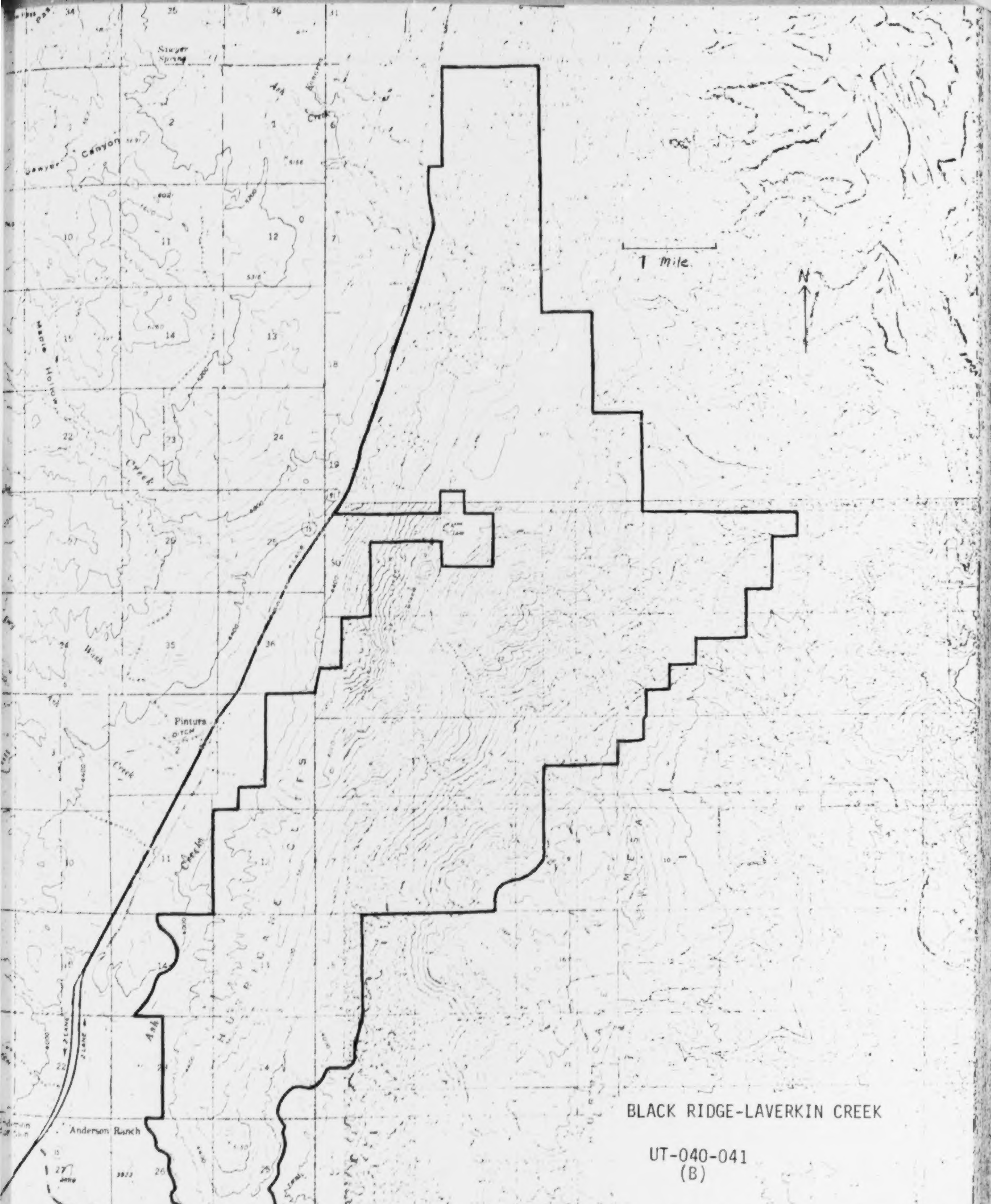
Hiking in LaVerkin Creek is the major primitive recreational activity available to visitors in the eastern area.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The Black Ridge (Hurricane Fault) is a major topographical and geological feature of Washington County, Utah.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Three comments contained specific information on wilderness characteristics. One comment agreed with the BLM determination that 15,063 acres possess the naturalness characteristic. Two comments stated that the unit lacks naturalness. All three comments stated that outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation do not exist in the unit.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The comments which stated that the unit lacks naturalness offer no information in addition to that already considered in the Summary Narrative. The proximity of the unit to Interstate 15 does not affect the naturalness of the unit in accordance with inventory guidelines which state that impacts of man's work outside the unit are generally not considered. Though a portion of the unit possesses naturalness, the outstanding solitude and primitive recreation characteristics are not present. All of the comments agree that the unit does not possess the wilderness characteristics necessary for further study.


1 mile
N
Pintura
Anderson Ranch
Ash Creek
BLACK RIDGE-LAVERKIN CREEK
UT-040-041
(B)

UNIT NUMBER: UT-040-061 WSA ACREAGE: 22,034

UNIT NAME: STEEP CREEK UNIT ACREAGE: 24,391

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located east of Boulder in Garfield County. The Circle Cliffs form the eastern boundary. The Log Canyon road borders the unit to the south.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 24,391 acres of public lands and encloses 1,907 acres of State land. The area with wilderness characteristics contains 22,034 acres of public lands and encloses 1,907 acres of State land.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of this unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There are several ways, a corral, two gravel pits, and a cabin along the southern boundary. Except for a way in Sec. 17, T34S, R5E, a way in the bottom of The Gulch; and a way in Sc. 5, T35S, R6E, all of these intrusions were judged to be substantially noticeable. The portion of the unit east of the Circle Cliffs has been significantly impacted by mineral exploration and range improvements. Using guidance in OAD 78-61, Change 3 (page 3), two narrow fingers of land by Deer Creek and in The Gulch were also excluded from the area considered to be natural.

Within the unit, 22,034 acres are considered to possess naturalness. There are 2,357 acres which contain substantially noticeable imprints of man.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. Deep, winding canyons such as The Gulch, Steep Creek, Hot Canyon, and Cottonwood Canyon offer excellent topographic screening because they are isolated geographically by the steep canyon cliffs. The riparian vegetation in the bottom of these canyons also offer opportunities for solitude.

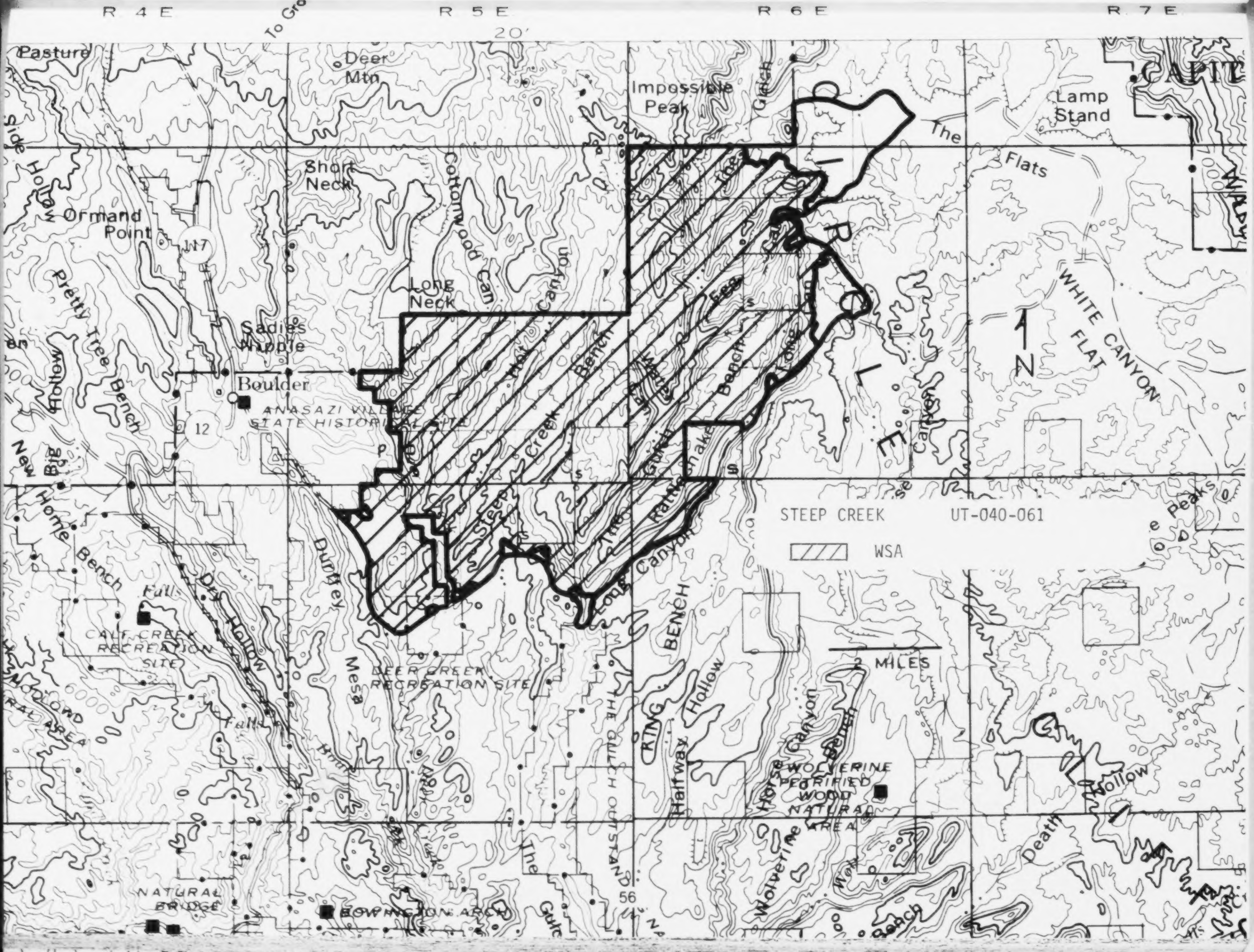
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation including backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, photography, and sightseeing. The canyons offer backpacking opportunities of the kind found only in the most popular hiking areas in southern Utah. Rockhounding opportunities for petrified wood area available in outcrops of the Chinle formation. One petrified wood area contains large, unbroken logs 3 to 4 feet in diameter and up to 60 to 70 feet long.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Most of the unit was rated Class A scenery in the BLM Visual Resource Management analysis. Rattlesnake Bench and an area just southeast of Boulder were rated Class B scenery, and the area east of Circle Cliffs was rated Class C scenery. The canyon area and the Circle Cliffs were rated Class A for geological sightseeing in the Recreation Information System (RIS) analysis. Lamanite Natural Bridge was rated rated Class B for geological sightseeing. The outcrops of the Chinle Formation within the unit contain petrified wood in sufficient concentrations to provide rockhounding opportunities. One area contains large, unbroken logs.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Twenty-five comments provided information relative to wilderness characteristics. Fifteen comments agreed with the BLM proposal that 22,034 acres possessed the naturalness characteristic. Seven comments stated that the unit lacked naturalness or that less than 22,034 acres were natural. Sixteen comments stated outstanding opportunities for solitude exist and four comments stated that no such opportunities were present. Sixteen comments stated an outstanding opportunity for primitive, unconfined recreation exists and two comments stated no outstanding recreation opportunities were present.

4. DECISION: 22,034 acres of this unit are identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Most of the imprints of man identified in the comments are either outside the boundaries of the unit, within areas judged to lack naturalness during the intensive inventory, or on State lands. Only public lands are evaluated during the inventory. Other imprints within the unit such as fences and water developments are allowable in WSAs. Imprints exterior to the unit were determined to not preclude opportunities for solitude within the unit. No new information was submitted to show that the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation.



R 4 E
R 5 E
20′
R 6 E
R 7 E
Pasture
Deer Mtn
Impossible Peak
Lamp Stand
The Flats
Short Neck
Ormand Point
Cottonwood Can.
Long Neck
Sadies Nipple
Boulder
ANASAZI VILLAGE STATE HISTORICAL SITE
Pretty Tree Bench
Side Hollow
Big Hollow
New Home Bench
WHITE CANYON FLAT
N
Steep Creek
Bench
Long Canyon
Durffey Mesa
Dry Hollow
CALF CREEK RECREATION SITE
DEER CREEK RECREATION SITE
THE GULCH OUTSTAND
KING BENCH
Halfway Hollow
Horse Canyon
Wolverine
WOLVERINE PETRIFIED WOOD NATURAL AREA
Death Hollow
STEEP CREEK
UT-040-061
WSA
2 MILES
NATURAL BRIDGE
56

UNIT NO.: UT-040-074 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: COLT MESA UNIT ACREAGE: 19,920

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located twenty miles southeast of the town of Boulder.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 19,920 acres of public lands and encloses 1,267 acres of state lands.

B. NATURALNESS: Man's imprints are located near the boundaries of the unit. Along the western boundary, there exists a way which may be an old alignment of the boundary road, an airstrip, and roads and ways near and on Colt Mesa. These imprints are considered to be substantially noticeable. Roads and ways on Fourmile Bench, near the southern boundary, are also substantially noticeable and intrude upon the naturalness of the area. Ways north of Deer Point are impassable to vehicles, are rehabilitating naturally, and are not considered to significantly impact naturalness. The rest of this unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. Within the unit, approximately 18,230 acres are considered to possess naturalness and 1,690 acres are considered to contain imprints of man which are substantially noticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

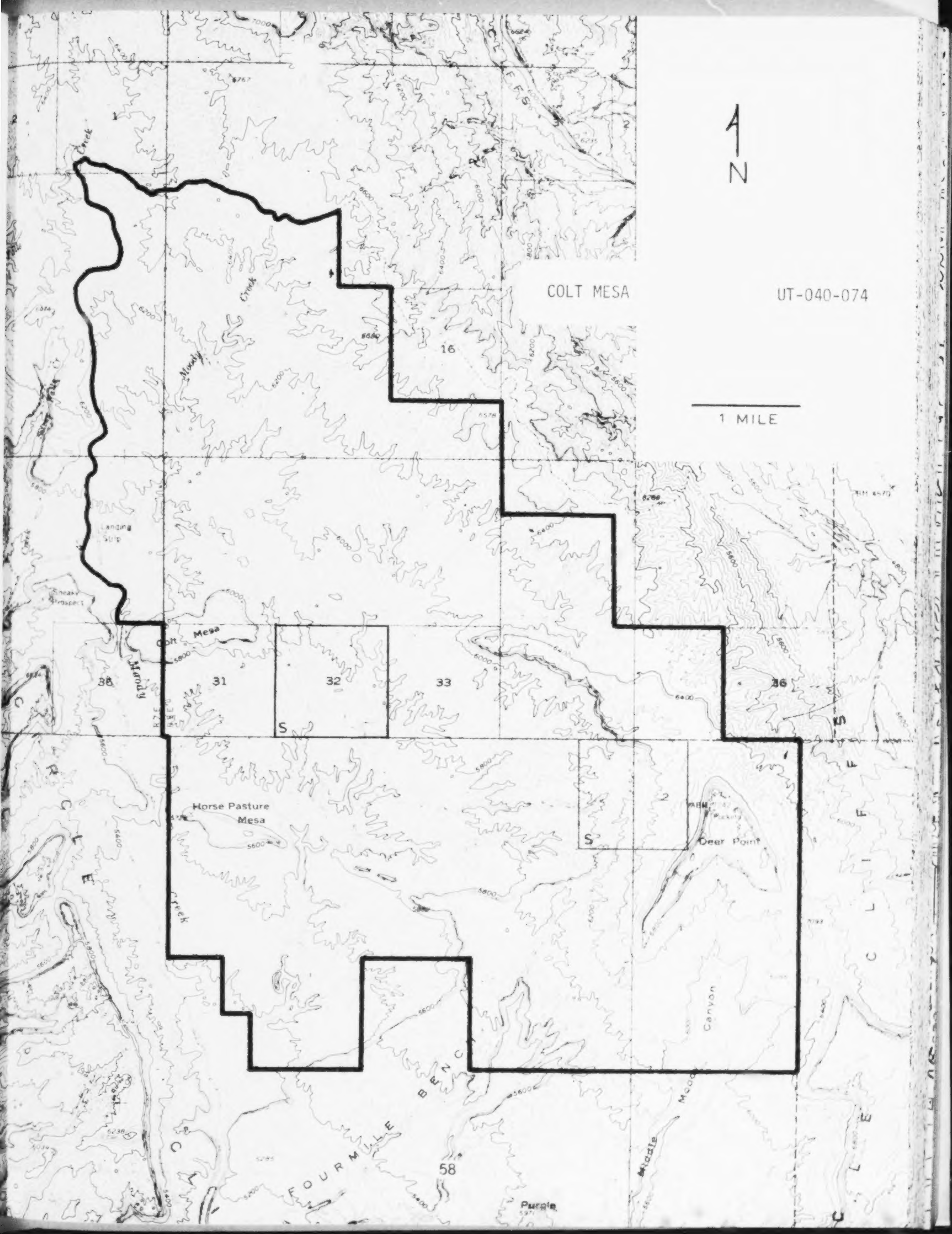
1. SOLITUDE: None of the unit is considered to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The majority of the unit contains rolling hills bisected by numerous shallow washes. Vegetation is sparse and consists of scattered juniper and low-growing brush. Views across the unit are possible from many locations. The topography and vegetation do not provide the screening opportunities which are necessary for an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Recreational activities, including horseback riding, hiking, and backpacking can occur within the unit but are not considered to be outstanding. The cliffs of mesas in the unit, such as Deer Point, could provide opportunities for rock climbing, but this would be very dangerous due to the unstable nature of the rock structure. Some petrified wood was found within the unit, but does not appear in sufficient quantities to provide an outstanding opportunity for rockhounding.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Six comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. Three comments stated the unit lacks the naturalness characteristic. One comment stated that outstanding opportunities for solitude exist within the unit. Three comments stated that the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All but one of the comments submitted stated the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation. The one dissenting comment expressed doubt as to whether the unit possesses outstanding opportunities by itself. Inventory procedures state that each unit must be assessed on its own merits as to whether an outstanding opportunity exists.



COLT MESA
UT-040-074
N
1 MILE
Colt Mesa
Horse Pasture Mesa
Deer Point
Landing Strip
Canyon
FOURMILE BENCH
58
16
31
32
33
36
2

UNIT NO.: UT-040-075 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: HORSE SPRING CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 32,203

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located two miles southwest of the town of Escalante (Garfield County).

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 32,203 acres of public lands and encloses 2,520 acres of state lands.

B. NATURALNESS: As indicated in the situation evaluation, most of the imprints are located near the boundaries of the unit. In the Little Desert area, there are two roads, several ways, a powerline, two fences, and two corrals. The cumulative effect of these imprints is a significant impact on naturalness. Ways in Mitchell Canyon and Coal Bed Canyon are substantially noticeable. Portions of these ways in the bottoms of the canyons have been washed out, but enough evidence remains for them to be noticeable. In Little Valley, there is a way, a seeding, a fence, and three reservoirs. The cumulative impact is substantially noticeable. In the southern portion of the unit, ways in Cherry Flat and Trap Canyon are substantially noticeable. Portions of the Upper Valley Oil Field are within the unit. Impacts include three roads, two powerlines, and active and inactive well sites. The rest of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The topography and vegetation do provide some opportunities for solitude, but the opportunities are not considered to be outstanding. Canyons within the unit are not extensive, relatively short, and generally wide and shallow. The opportunity for avoiding the sights, sounds, or evidence of other people in the unit, while not completely absent, is limited.

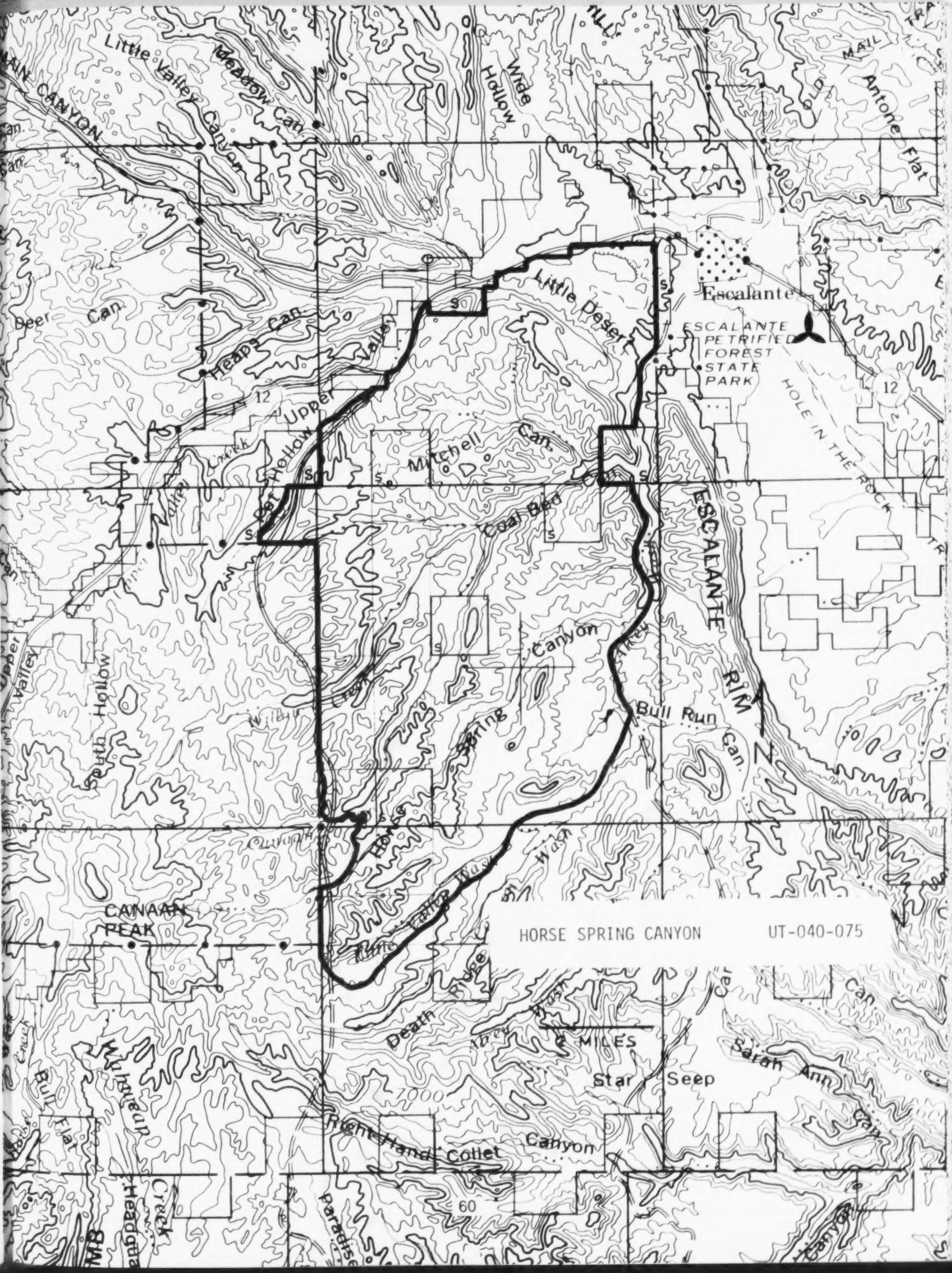
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation. Recreational activities such as horseback riding and hiking are possible, but the opportunities are not outstanding. No prominent sightseeing or recreational features have been identified in the unit using the BLM's Recreation Information System. The average scenery, lack of prominent recreational features, absence of challenge or risk, and lack of diversity in the number of activities precludes outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Archeological values include petroglyphs, pictographs, grainaries, cave habitation sites, and open campsites. Geological features include Horizon Arch, petrified wood, and fossil localities. One fossil locality within the unit is reported to contain dinosaur bone.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Five comments provided information relative to wilderness characteristics. All of the comments agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.

4. **DECISION**: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments submitted agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit does not contain wilderness characteristics. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive wilderness inventory recommendation.



HORSE SPRING CANYON UT-040-075

UNIT NO.: UT-040-076 WSA ACREAGE 46,711

UNIT NAME: CARCASS CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 76,410

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located 2 miles south of Escalante, in Garfield and Kane Counties. It consists of several canyon systems cut into the Kaiparowits Plateau as well as a section of the Straight Cliffs.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 76,410 acres of public lands and encloses 5,456 acres of state lands.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the unit (67,090 acres) appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There are some impacts within the unit which are more fully described in the Utah Proposed Wilderness Study Areas, April, 1980, or unit files.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The area with naturalness includes an area between the Straight Cliffs and the Hole-in-the-Rock road, the Straight Cliffs, and three canyon systems - Left Hand Collet Canyon, Right Hand Collet Canyon (with the Carcass Canyon tributary) and Dave Canyon. The area between the Hole-in-the-Rock road and the Straight Cliffs is broken and rough with a scant vegetative cover of pinyon-juniper forest. Although this area offers some opportunity for solitude, the topographic and vegetative screening does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The Straight Cliffs cliffline is a prominent visual feature in the area. Because the cliffline is sheer and barren with few breaks, it would be difficult for an individual to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors on the cliffline. The Dave Canyon-Bull Run Canyon area at the north end of the unit is a small narrow area between the Straight Cliffs and the Alvey Wash road. The opportunity for solitude in this area is more limited because of this area's small size and open vegetative cover.

The Right Hand and Left Hand Collet canyon systems offer the best opportunities for solitude within the unit. The Right Hand Collet system is the larger of the two and includes Carcass Canyon, Sarah Ann Canyon, Long Canyon, and two unnamed canyons. The Left Hand Collet system includes Willard Canyon, Horse Canyon, Steer Canyon, and Upper Trail Canyon. It is possible to avoid the sights and evidence of other people in these canyons. The topographic screening offered by these canyons provides many opportunities for solitude.

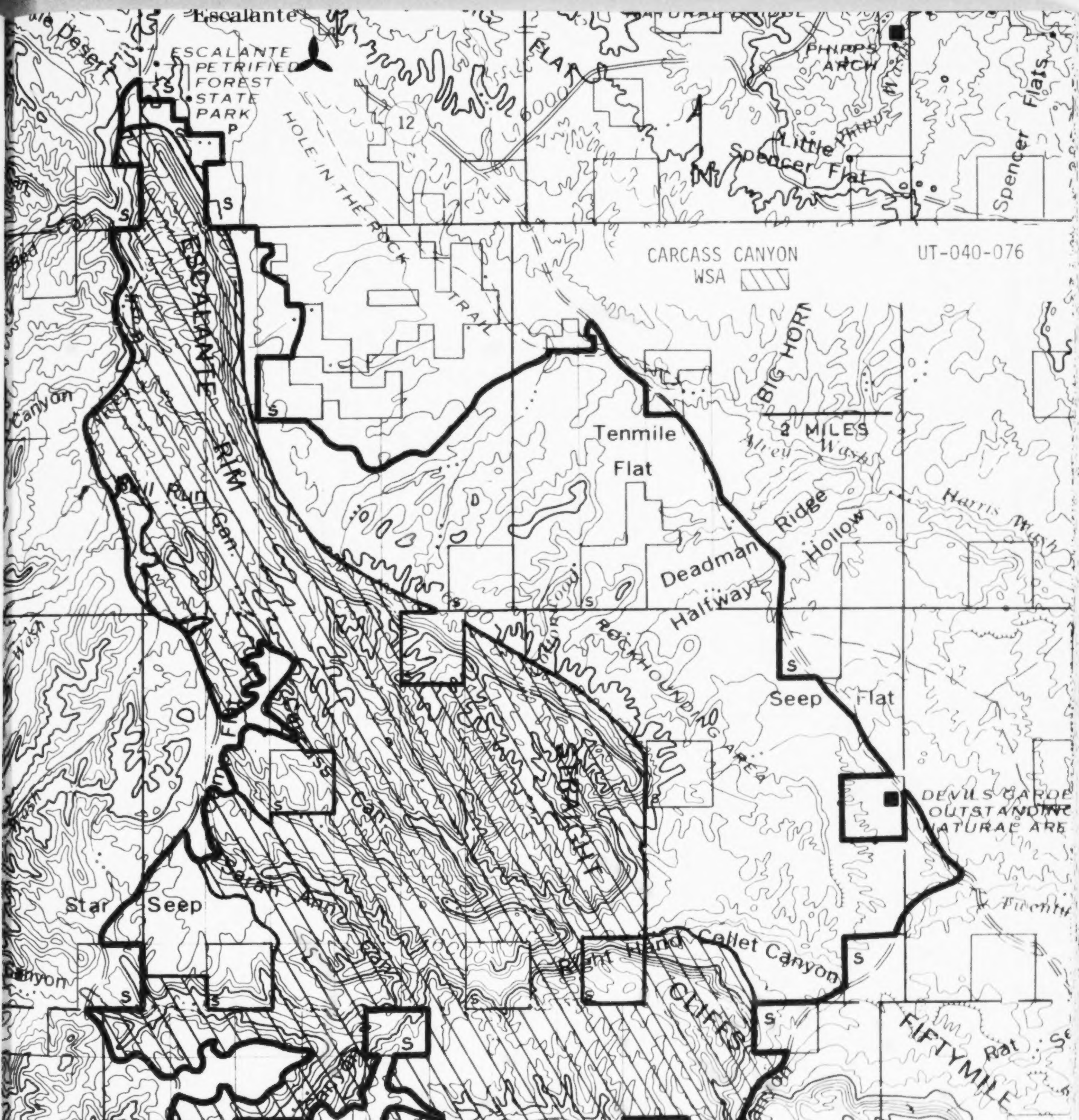
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation available in the unit include opportunities for hiking, backpacking, bird watching, photography, and sightseeing for geological features. These opportunities are of marginal quality in most of the unit. The best opportunity for hiking (and backpacking) is found in the canyon systems. Because of the short, branching configuration of these canyons, it would be difficult to achieve a sustained backpacking experience in the canyons and is not considered to be outstanding. Although there is some opportunity for backpacking

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains geological, archeological, and historic values. Refer to the Utah Proposed Wilderness Study Areas, April 1980, for more detailed information or the unit file.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Forty-seven comments provided information regarding wilderness characteristics. Thirty comments stated that 67,090 acres possessed naturalness or that more than 67,090 acres were natural. Ten comments stated the unit lacked naturalness or that less than 67,090 acres were natural. Thirty-two comments stated the unit possessed outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive, unconfined recreation. Nine comments stated the unit lacked the solitude characteristic and six comments stated the unit lacked the primitive recreation characteristic.

4. DECISION: An area of 46,711 acres qualifies as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The majority of the comments state that areas possessing outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation are present in the unit. Further examination of the unit indicates that topographic and vegetative screening do offer outstanding opportunities in the canyons and intervening ridges behind the Straight Cliffs. Primitive type recreational opportunities were not judge to be of outstanding quality. The Director has granted an exception to OAD 78-61, Change 3, and these areas of naturalness possessing outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation characteristics are determined to qualify as a WSA.


CARCASS CANYON
WSA
UT-040-076
2 MILES
Escalante
ESCALANTE
PETRIFIED
FOREST
STATE
PARK
HOLE IN THE ROCK TRAIL
ESCALANTE RIM
PHIPPS ARCH
Little Spencer Flat
Spencer Flats
Tenmile Flat
Deadman Ridge
Halfway Hollow
BIG HORN
Harris Wash
ROCKHOUNDING AREA
Seep Flat
DEVILS GARDEN OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA
Bull Run Can.
Star Seep
Right Hand Collet Canyon
CLIFFS
STRAIGHT
FIFTYMILE
Rat
Big Sage
Horse Can.
Collet Canyon
Collet Top
CANYON
12
62

UNIT NUMBER: UT-040-077 WSA ACREAGE: 38,075

UNIT NAME: MUD SPRING CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 65,010

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located south of Highway 12 and east of Henrieville. The unit is located south of Canaan Peak, north of the Butler Valley road, and west of the Horse Mountain road. The unit is about evenly divided between Garfield and Kane Counties.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 65,010 acres of public land and encloses 4,321 acres of State and 640 acres of private land.

B. NATURALNESS: The inventory unit satisfies the naturalness criteria with the exception of the southwest portion of the unit. The cumulative impacts of several developments in that area eliminate it from further consideration. These developments include two seedings covering about 1,250 acres; two powerlines, 230-kV and 69-kV, which parallel each other; ways, and several range improvements and associated facilities such as reservoirs, corrals, and watershed protection dikes. One road in that same area provides access to private land in Round Valley. It was determined that two other small areas in the northern part of the unit do not possess naturalness. These areas include a small powerline near Henrieville Creek and several short ways in an area at the head of Little Creek. In the remainder of the inventory unit, a way leading to Bull Flat, a way in Headquarters Valley, and another way to an abandoned water well west of Blue Wash in the southeast corner of the unit were all determined to be substantially unnoticeable. The area that possesses the naturalness characteristic contains 56,150 acres.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: An outstanding opportunity for solitude exists in the inventory unit. Topography within the natural area is diverse and ranges from high-walled canyons such as Mud Spring Canyon and Little Creek in the west, to the "blues" badlands of the Kaiparowits formation in the northeastern part of the area. The northern end of the Cockscomb is present in the unit and constitutes the divide between the headwaters of Wahweap Creek on the east and the Paria River on the west. Vegetation varies from ponderosa pine at higher elevations to pinyon and juniper, and low growing shrubs. Screening provided by topography and vegetation or the combination of each offers an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of other people in all but the southeastern portion of the natural area.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The opportunity for a number of primitive recreational activities exists within the inventory unit. These include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, and hunting. In addition, rock climbing, sightseeing for geological and botanical features, and photography are also possible in the area. These dispersed, undeveloped types of recreation are enhanced by the variety of terrain which offers the opportunity to explore forested mountains, unusual geology, and intricate badlands. The diversity and quality of these activities are such that an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation is considered to exist throughout most of the natural area. The southeastern portion of the area lacks outstanding primitive and unconfined recreational activities.

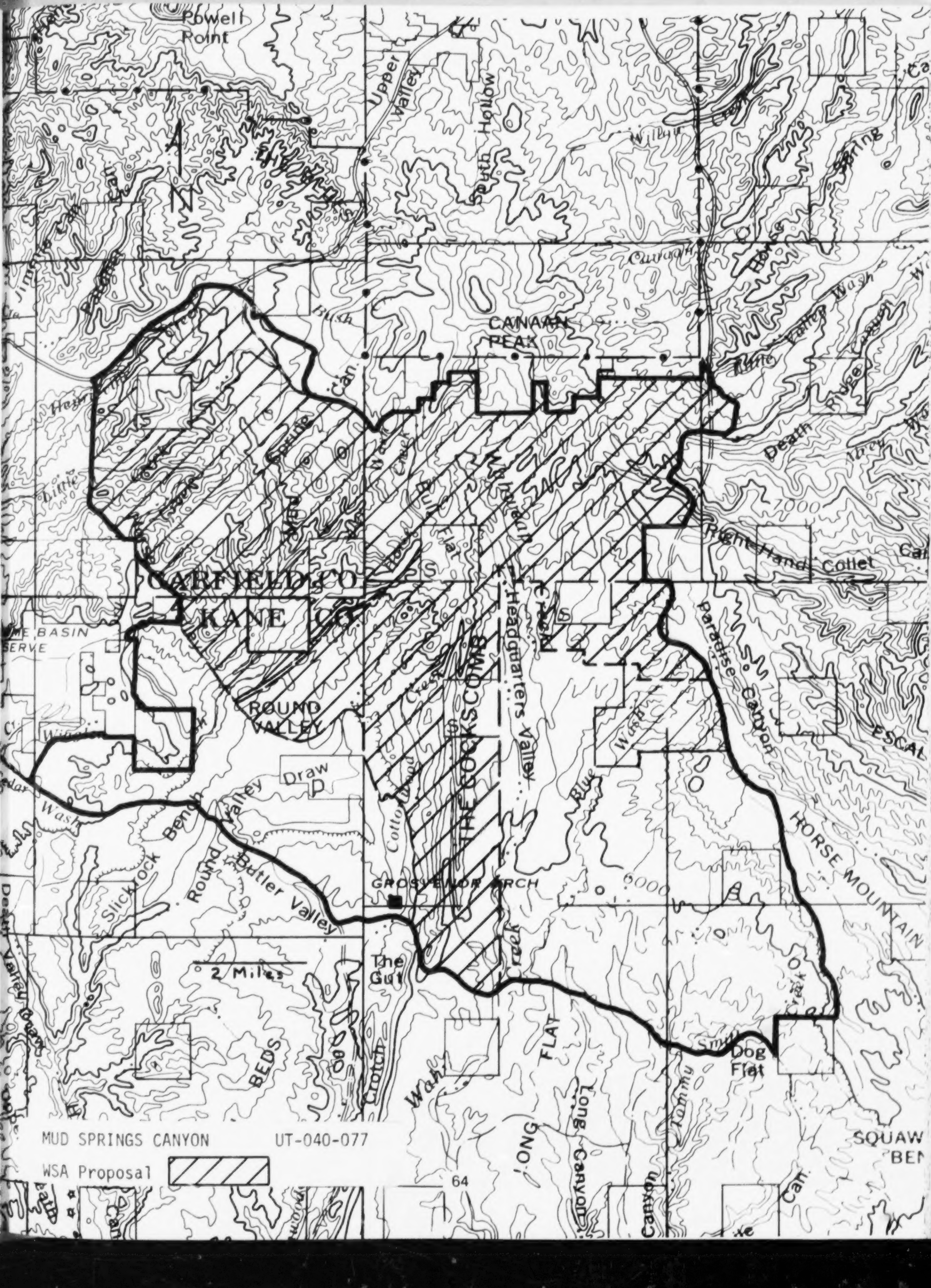
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The inventory unit contains geological and ecological supplemental values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Twenty-two comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. Eleven comments stated that 56,140 acres possessed the naturalness characteristic. Five comments stated that the unit lacked naturalness. Four comments stated that outstanding opportunities for solitude or for primitive recreation did not exist. Four comments stated that 36,598 acres possessed outstanding solitude and/or primitive recreation opportunities. Eight comments stated that 56,140 acres possessed outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation. Three comments stated that the Director's approval of an exception was in violation of Bureau policy.

4. DECISION: 38,075 acres of this unit are identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Many of the comments supported the position that 56,140 acres have naturalness. Those comments stating that the unit lacks the naturalness characteristic were evaluated after the public review period. Information in these comments on imprints of man's work within the unit did not provide new or supplementary information that would justify a change in the area possessing naturalness. Several comments stated that the entire natural area has outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and thus should qualify for wilderness study. Some of these comments stated that the boundary line of the proposed WSA in the southeastern portion of the unit was not located in such a way as to only exclude the portion of the unit that exhibits a high degree of character change in topography from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. A reexamination of this situation identified 1,477 acres which have topography similar to that within the proposed WSA.

Readjusting the boundary to include this acreage results in 38,075 acres which qualify for wilderness study. The solitude and primitive recreation characteristics are not present on 18,065 acres in the southeastern portion of the inventory unit, and with approval from the Director to make an exception in the wilderness iventory policy, this area is not included in the WSA.



MUD SPRINGS CANYON UT-040-077

WSA Proposal

UNIT NO.: UT-040-078 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: DEATH RIDGE UNIT ACREAGE: 65,040

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies on the Kaiparowits Plateau 10 miles south of the town of Escalante. Major drainages within the unit include the Escalante, Paradise and Right Hand Collet Canyons. The unit generally lies between the Horse Mountain and Collet Top roads in Garfield and Kane Counties.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 65,040 acres of public land and encloses 5,592 acres of state land.

B. NATURALNESS: The imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable in most of the inventory unit. The portions of the unit where naturalness has been impaired are confined largely to the singular impact of ways associated with exploratory coal drilling. These ways are located in Alvey Wash, Right Hand Collet Canyon, the central portion of Escalante Canyon, on Paradise Bench, at the north end of Horse Mountain, near Camp Flat, and near Trap Canyon Wash. The cumulative effect of ways and drilling has impaired the naturalness of an area near the head of Escalante Canyon. Range development projects also cumulatively impair naturalness in the northern tip of the unit at Little Valley. A road was determined to exist on Death Ridge. Other signs of man in the unit are considered to be substantially unnoticeable. The boundary of the area possessing naturalness has been drawn along the physical edge of the impairing development or as a legal description which eliminates as little intervening land as possible where cumulative impacts are involved.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The lower portion of the unit lacks sufficient topographic or vegetative screening to provide solitude. An opportunity for solitude is provided by the vegetative and topographic screening present north of the upper part of Escalante Canyon. However, the topography and vegetation in this area are commonplace and are not exceptionally rough or dense in terms of their capacity to screen visitors from one another. The unit does not provide outstanding opportunity for solitude.

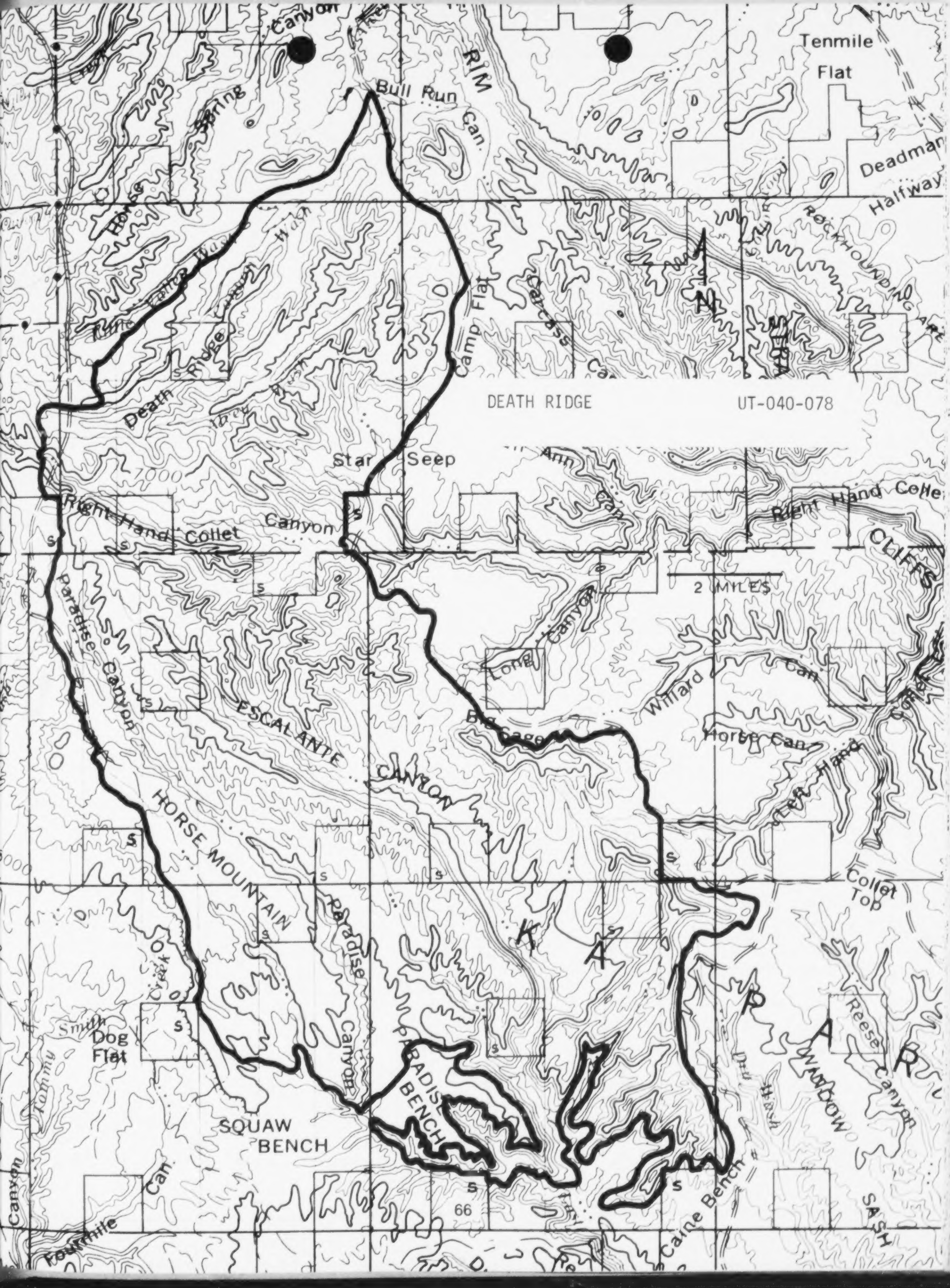
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: There is not a great diversity of primitive recreation activity types available within the unit. Hiking is the only activity of any importance that could be pursued within the unit. The quality of the hiking opportunity is only moderate and certainly not superior to other hiking opportunities in the region. The primitive recreation opportunities in the unit do not satisfy the Wilderness Inventory Handbook criteria for diversity of activities or for outstanding quality of an individual activity opportunity.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains geological, ecological and scenic values and two threatened plants. A detailed description is in Utah Proposed Wilderness Study Areas, April 1980.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Thirty-one comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. Eighteen comments stated that 62,870 acres possessed the naturalness characteristic. Four comments stated that either the unit lacked naturalness or that less than 62,870 acres were natural. Twenty-one comments stated that outstanding topographic and vegetative screening opportunities and/or outstanding individual primitive recreation opportunities exist. Ten comments stated that the unit lacked outstanding solitude and primitive recreation characteristics. A detailed analysis of comments is available in the permanent unit file.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: There is a major and irreconcilable disagreement within the comments regarding the degree of solitude obtainable in the Escalante, Paradise, and Right Hand Collet drainages. Further visual inspection of these areas indicates that neither the topographic nor the vegetative screening can provide outstanding opportunity for solitude as these criteria are defined in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook. A detailed decision rationale which addresses all wilderness characteristics is in the permanent unit file.


DEATH RIDGE
UT-040-078
Canyon
Spring
Horse
Bull Run
Can.
RIM
Tenmile
Flat
Deadman
Halfway
ROCKHOUND
Death
Ridge
Camp Flat
Carcass
Star
Seep
Right Hand Collet
Canyon
CLIFFS
2 MILES
Long
Canyon
Willard
Can.
Horse Can.
Left Hand
Paradise
Canyon
ESCALANTE
CANYON
HORSE MOUNTAIN
Collet
Top
K
A
P
A
R
Paradise
Canyon
PARADISE
BENCH
Reese
Canyon
WINDOW
Dog
Flat
SQUAW
BENCH
Fourmile
Can.
Caine Bench
SASH
66

UNIT NO.: UT-040-079 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: BURNING HILLS UNIT ACREAGE: 70,080

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is located on the Kaiparowits Plateau in southeastern Kane County. It encompasses a portion of the Last Chance drainage and is bounded by the Smokey Mountain, Collet Top, and Croton Canyon roads.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 70,080 acres of public land and encloses 6,486 acres of state land.

B. NATURALNESS: In most of the unit the imprint of man is substantially unnoticeable. The area which has retained naturalness contains 61,550 acres of public land.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The area possessing the naturalness characteristic includes Last Chance Creek, a major drainage, and two tributaries (Dry Wash and Reese Canyon). The Burning Hills are low gentle hills which constitute the last drainage of Last Chance Creek below Reese Canyon. Although the topography of these canyons and the Burning Hills offers natural screening, the canyons and the Burning Hills are not sufficiently entrenched or dissected to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of topographic screening. The vegetation in the canyons and other natural areas below the confluence of Reese Canyon is a low, open shrub and does not screen visitors from one another. Window Sash Bench and Dry Bench possess a pinyon-juniper forest cover. Although this vegetation offers some opportunities for solitude it is not sufficiently dense to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Thus, while the terrain and vegetation in this unit provide some opportunities for solitude, they are not considered to be outstanding.

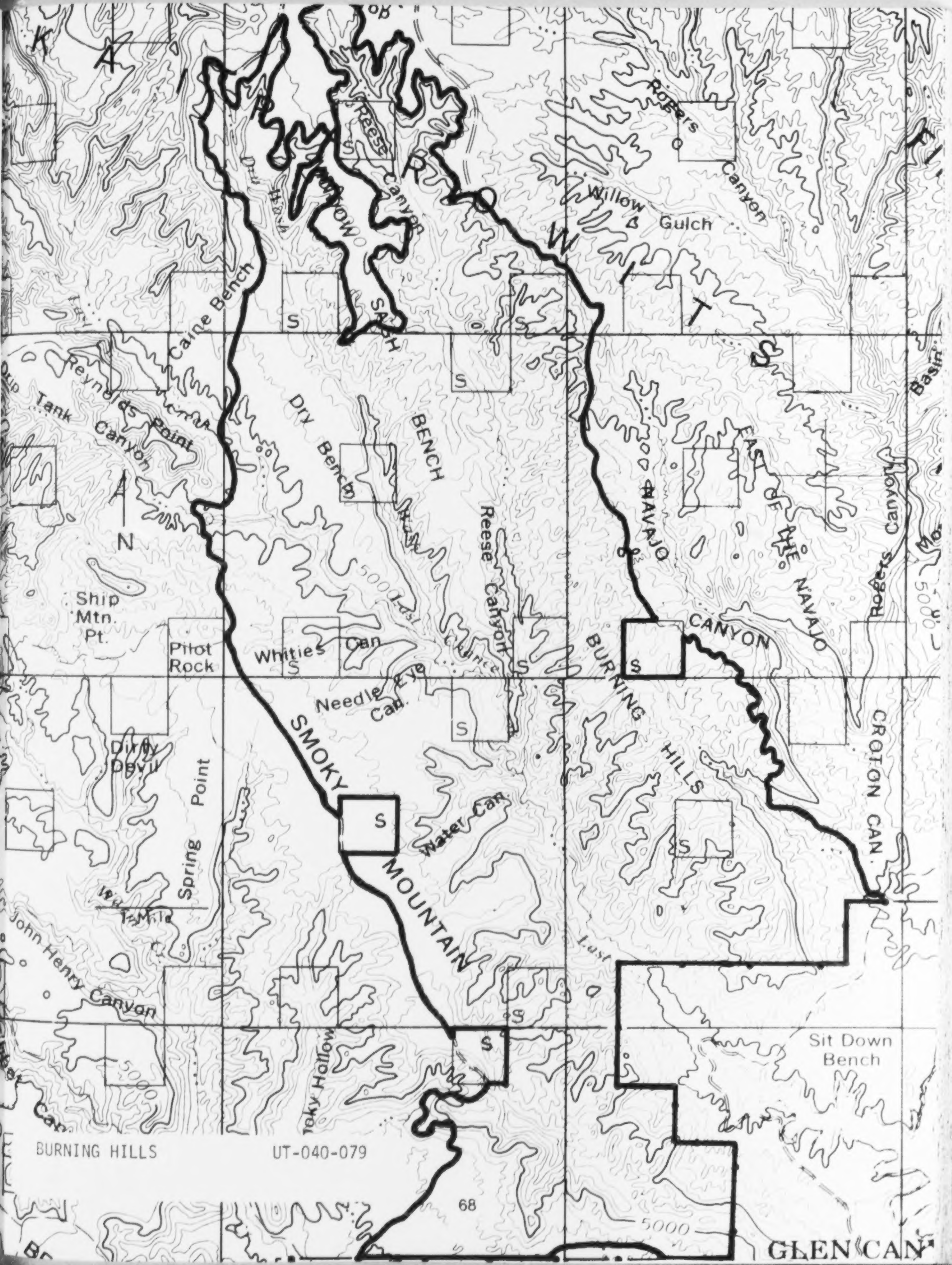
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit does not exhibit a diversity in the number of primitive and unconfined recreation activities possible within the unit. Although hiking, backpacking, and sightseeing for geological features (coal fire occurrences) are possible, none of these activities could be considered to be individually outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The inventory unit contains geological, archeological and ecological supplemental values. A detailed description is in Utah Proposed Wilderness Study Areas, April 1980.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: The public submitted forty-one comments containing information on wilderness characteristics relative to the unit. Twenty-six comments stated that the naturalness characteristic is present on 61,550 acres of the unit, while ten comments stated either that the unit lacks naturalness or that less than 61,550 acres possess naturalness. Ten comments stated that the unit contains no outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Twenty-seven comments stated that the outstanding solitude characteristic and/or the outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation characteristic are present in the unit.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOE DECISION: No concensus about opportunities for solitude and opportunities for primitive recreation existed in the comments. Several detailed comments support and expand upon the original proposal's evaluations of these characteristics. However, the majority of the comments argue that the topographic screening is outstanding and that the hiking-backpacking opportunity is enhanced to an outstanding degree by several supplemental values in the unit. Although none of these comments contend that the solitude and primitive recreation opportunities are superior to others of their kind, several of the comments supporting the original proposal argue that these opportunities are regionally inferior. Analysis of the public comment for this unit indicates that the original proposal stating that the unit lacks the two outstanding opportunities characteristics is correct. A detailed decision rationale is in the permanent unit file.



BURNING HILLS UT-040-079

UNIT NUMBER: UT-040-080 WSA ACREAGE: 146,143

UNIT NAME: FIFTY-MILE MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE: 178,008

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located at the east edge of the Kaiparowits Plateau. The Hole-in-the-Rock road parallels the unit on the east.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 178,008 acres of public lands and encloses 15,542 acres of State land.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. In the western portion of the unit, there are several ways and an area disturbed by coal fire suppression activities. The cumulative effect of these intrusions is a substantially noticeable impact on naturalness. In the southern part of the unit, the way which leads to an airstrip on Grand Bench Neck is substantially noticeable. This way continues from the airstrip on Grand Bench Neck into the Rock Creek drainage. In this area, the way has deteriorated to a point that it is considered to be substantially unnoticeable. In the eastern part of the unit, the area east of the Fifty-Mile Bench and an area on the Fifty-Mile Bench near Batty Pass contain several ways, roads, fences, and reservoirs. The cumulative impact is substantially noticeable and intrudes upon naturalness. Fences, developed springs, and two cabins on the Fifty-Mile Mountain and a cabin in Rogers Canyon were judged to be substantially unnoticeable and not to intrude upon naturalness.

Within the unit, 146,143 acres were considered to possess naturalness, with 31,865 acres containing imprints of man which are substantially noticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available within the unit because of its size and topography. The cliffs of the Fifty-Mile Bench and the Straight Cliffs provide geographic isolation from the Escalante River drainage area. The top of the Fifty-Mile Mountain is also isolated from the Rogers Canyon, Little Valley, and Rock Creek areas by sheer cliffs. The Rogers Canyon, Little Valley, and Rock Creek areas are heavily bisected by deep canyons. The benches on the west side of the unit have dense stands of pinyon-juniper which provide screening. The nature of the topography in the unit provides opportunities to find isolation and to avoid the sights, sounds, or other evidence of other people.

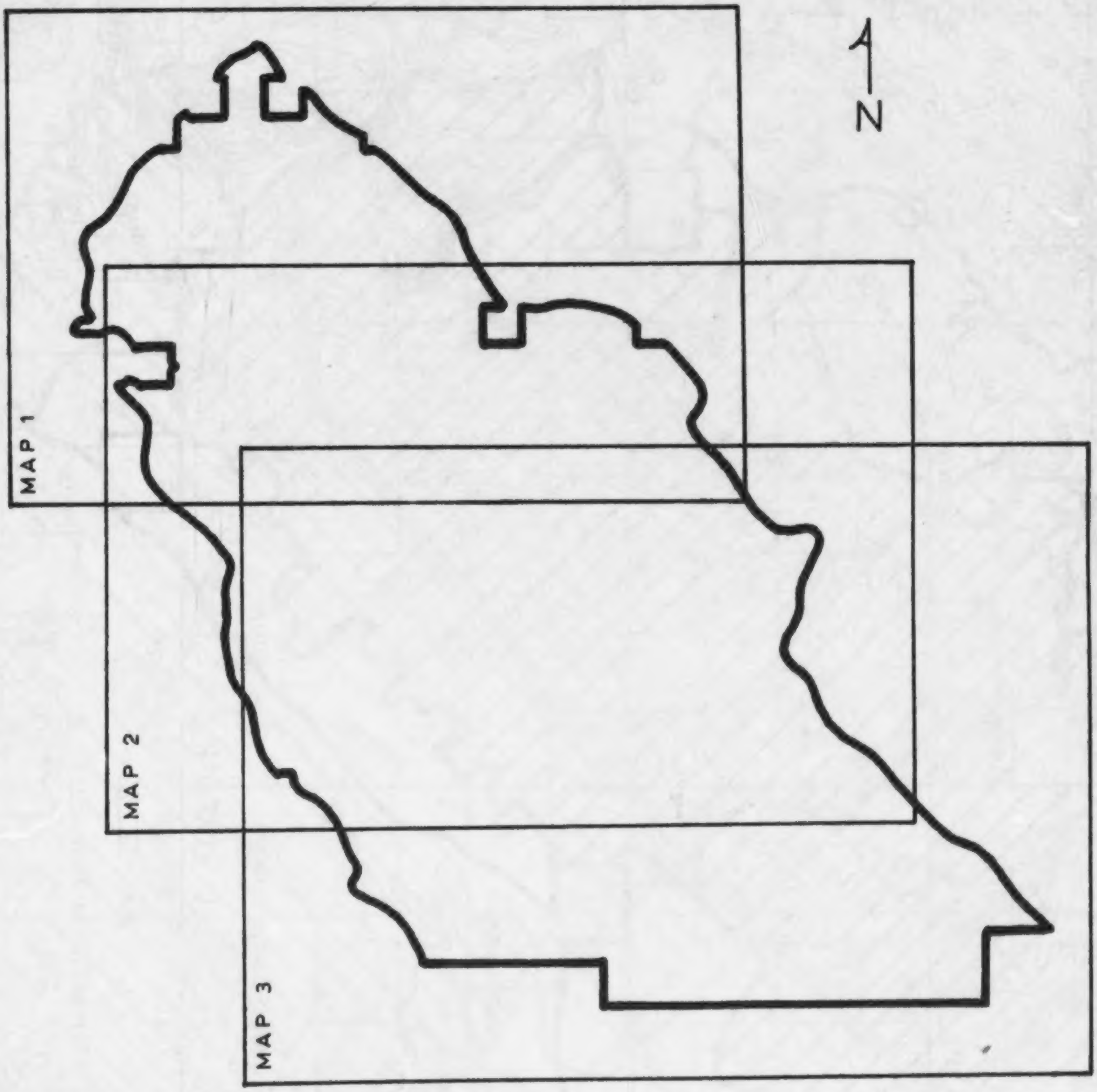
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation including hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, and sightseeing. The varying topography provides both easy hikes and challenging trips. The primitive recreation values of the area have been recognized in BLM planning efforts.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains scenic, archaeological, historical, and geological values. A detailed description is in Utah Proposed Wilderness Study Areas, April 1980.

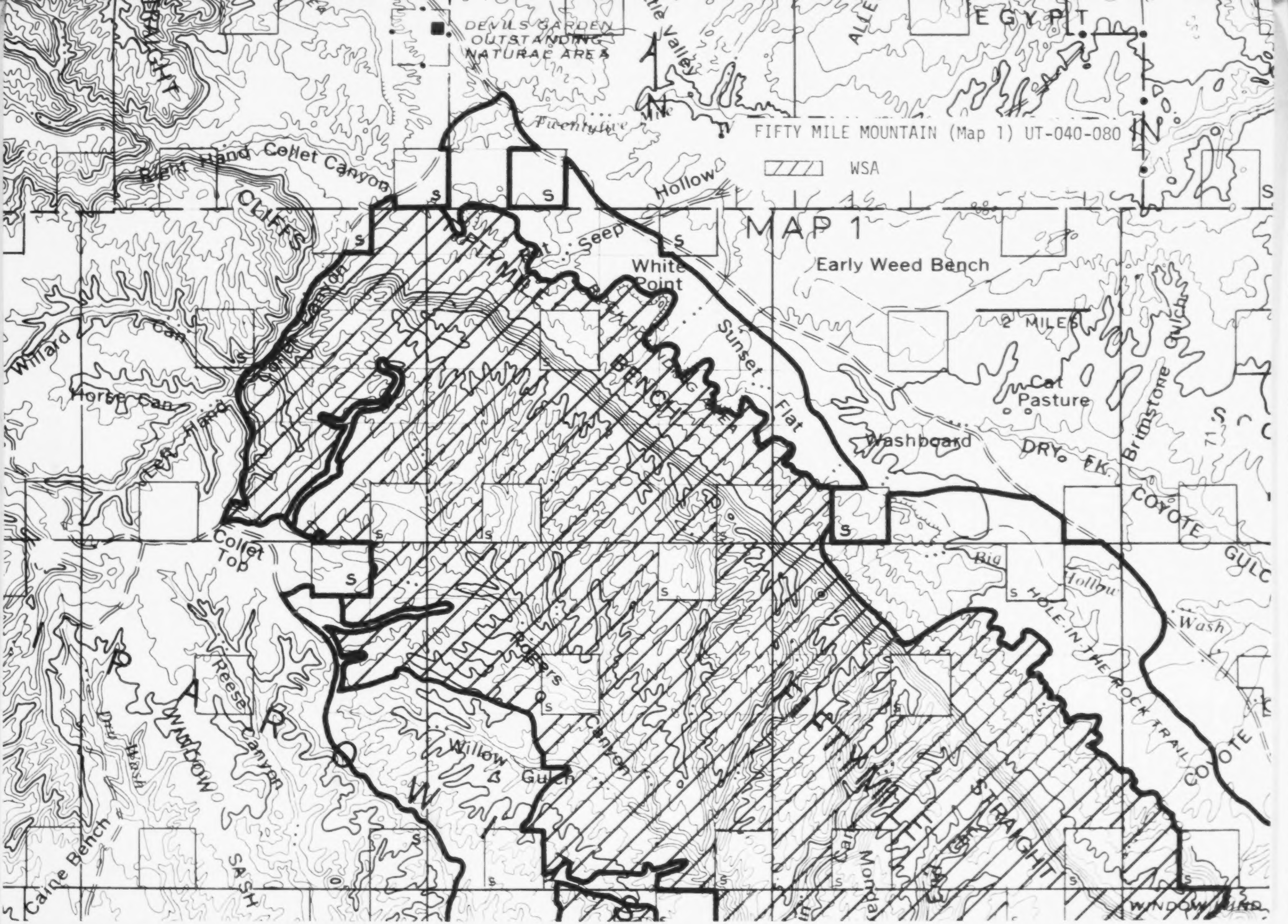
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Forty-one comments provided information regarding wilderness characteristics. Thirty-one comments stated that 146,143 acres possessed the naturalness characteristics, or that more than 146,143 acres were natural. Seven comments stated the unit lacked naturalness or that less than 146,143 acres were natural. Thirty-two comments stated the unit offered outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation. Four comments stated the unit lacked one or both of the outstanding characteristics.

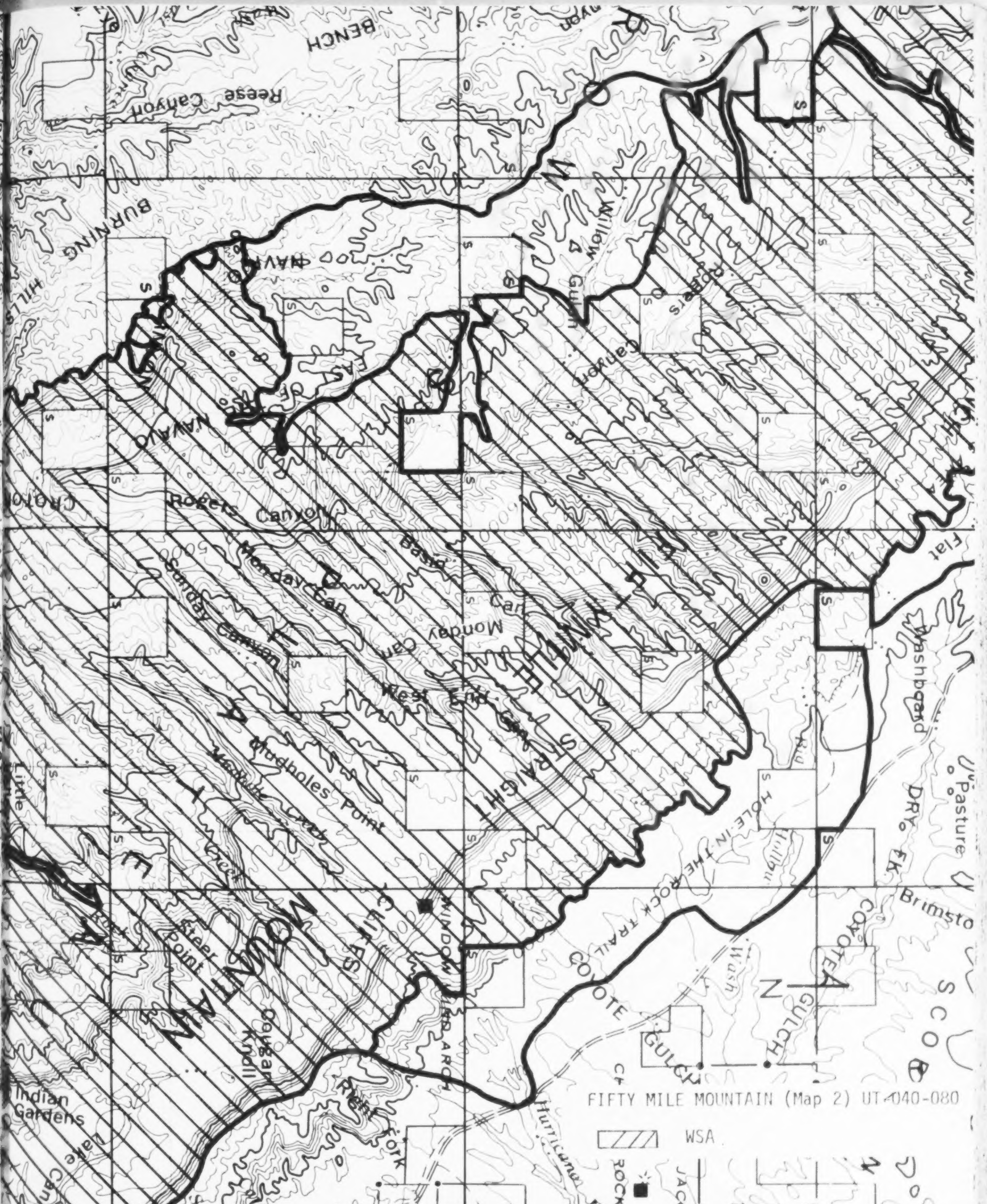
4. DECISION: 146,143 acres of this unit are identified as a WSA.

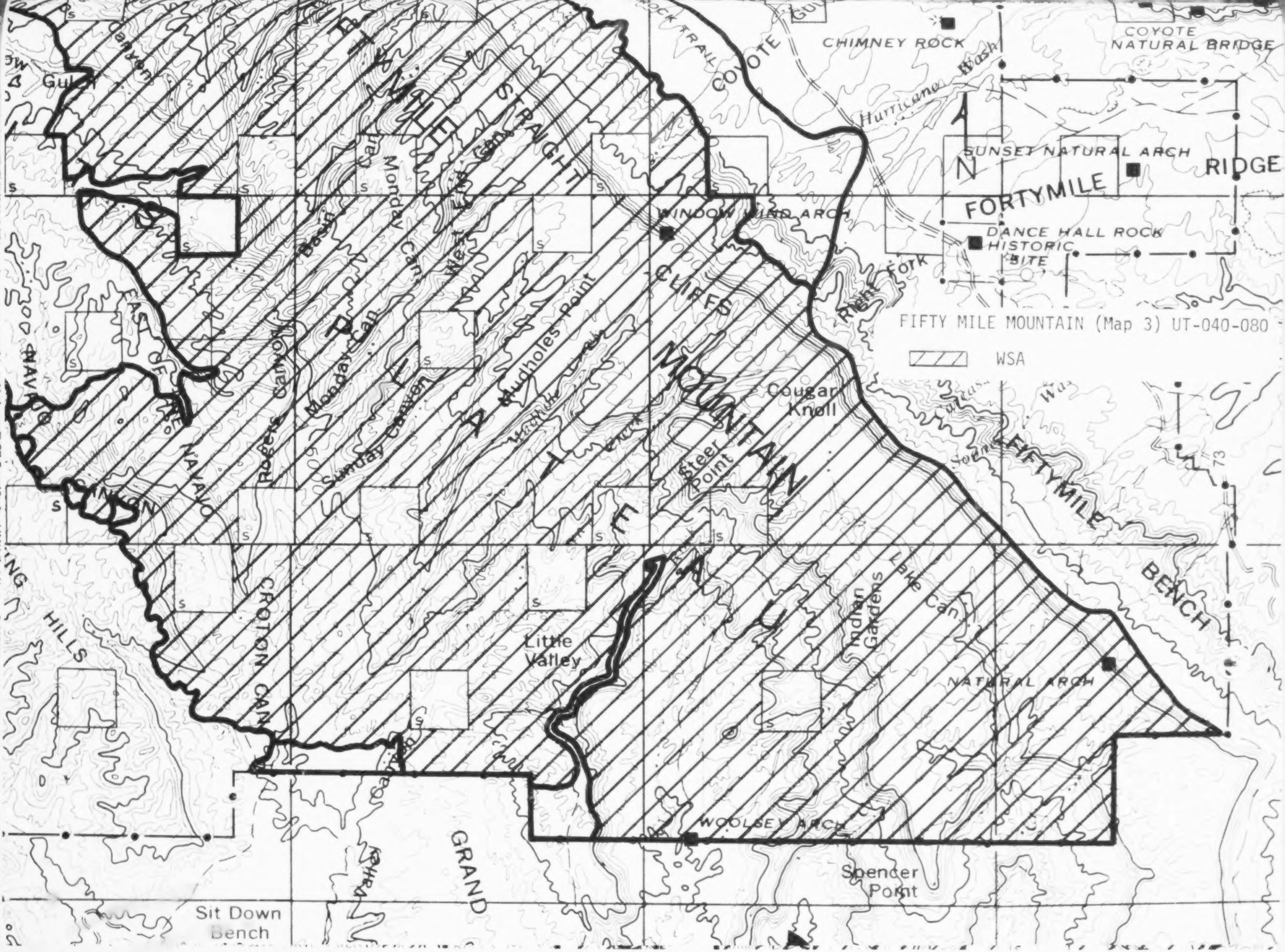
5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Most of the imprints of man identified in the comments are either outside the boundaries of the unit or within areas judged to lack naturalness during the intensive inventory. The other imprints are either allowable in a WSA or were determined to be substantially unnoticeable. Some comments stated that the areas considered to lack naturalness in the proposal should be included in the WSA because imprints are either substantially unnoticeable or could be rehabilitated. It is determined that these areas do contain substantially noticeable imprints of man. In addition, inventory procedures state rehabilitation should be considered only for those imprints that are not so significant as to automatically disqualify a portion of the unit. The comments indicate the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.



FIFTYMILE MOUNTAIN
UT-040-080
KEY MAP


FIFTY MILE MOUNTAIN (Map 1) UT-040-080
WSA
MAP 1
2 MILES
DEVILS GARDEN OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA
EGYPT
Early Weed Bench
White Point
Sunset Flat
Seep
Hollow
Right Hand Collet Canyon
Collet Canyon
CLIFFS
Willard
Horse Can
Left Hand
Collet Top
Cat Pasture
Washboard
DRY FK.
Brimstone Gulch
COYOTE
COYOTE GULC
Big Hollow
HOLE-IN-THE-ROCK TRAIL
Wash
BENCH
Rogers Canyon
Willow Gulch
Reese Canyon
WINDOW
Caine Bench
SASH
STRAIGHT
Monday
71


FIFTY MILE MOUNTAIN (Map 2) UT-040-080
WSA



FIFTY MILE MOUNTAIN (Map 3) UT-040-080
WSA
CHIMNEY ROCK
COYOTE NATURAL BRIDGE
SUNSET NATURAL ARCH
FORTYMILE
RIDGE
DANCE HALL ROCK HISTORIC SITE
WINDOW WIND ARCH
CLIFFS
MOUNTAIN
Cougar Knoll
Steer Point
FIFTYMILE
BENCH
Hurricane Wash
COYOTE
Monday Can.
West End Can.
STRAIGHT
Basin
Rogers Canyon
Monday Can.
Sunday Canyon
Mudholes Point
NAVAJO
CROTON CAN
Little Valley
Indian Gardens
Lake Can.
NATURAL ARCH
WOOLSEY ARCH
Spencer Point
GRAND
Valley
Sit Down Bench
HILLS

pages tightly bound

UNIT NO.: UT-040-081 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: ALLEN DUMP UNIT ACREAGE: 23,028

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about nineteen miles southeast of the town of Escalante.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 23,028 acres of public lands and encloses 1,917 acres of State lands.

B. NATURALNESS: As a whole, the unit is not natural. Two roads leading to Buckaroo Flat and Little Valley penetrate deeply into the unit. Most of the ways near Little Valley and Seep Flat are substantially noticeable and the cumulative impact is significant. The way which leads to Plaster of Paris Seep is substantially noticeable for the first .5 mile from the boundary, and the way which leads to Joe Prudence Spring is also substantially noticeable. The number and extent of intrusions and their distribution within the unit cause the imprint of man's work to be substantially noticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: In general, the topography of the unit is relatively flat and the vegetation is low-growing brush and grass. The lack of topographic or vegetative screening precludes outstanding opportunities for solitude. In addition, the locations of intrusions would make it difficult to avoid these existing sights, or other evidence of man within the unit.

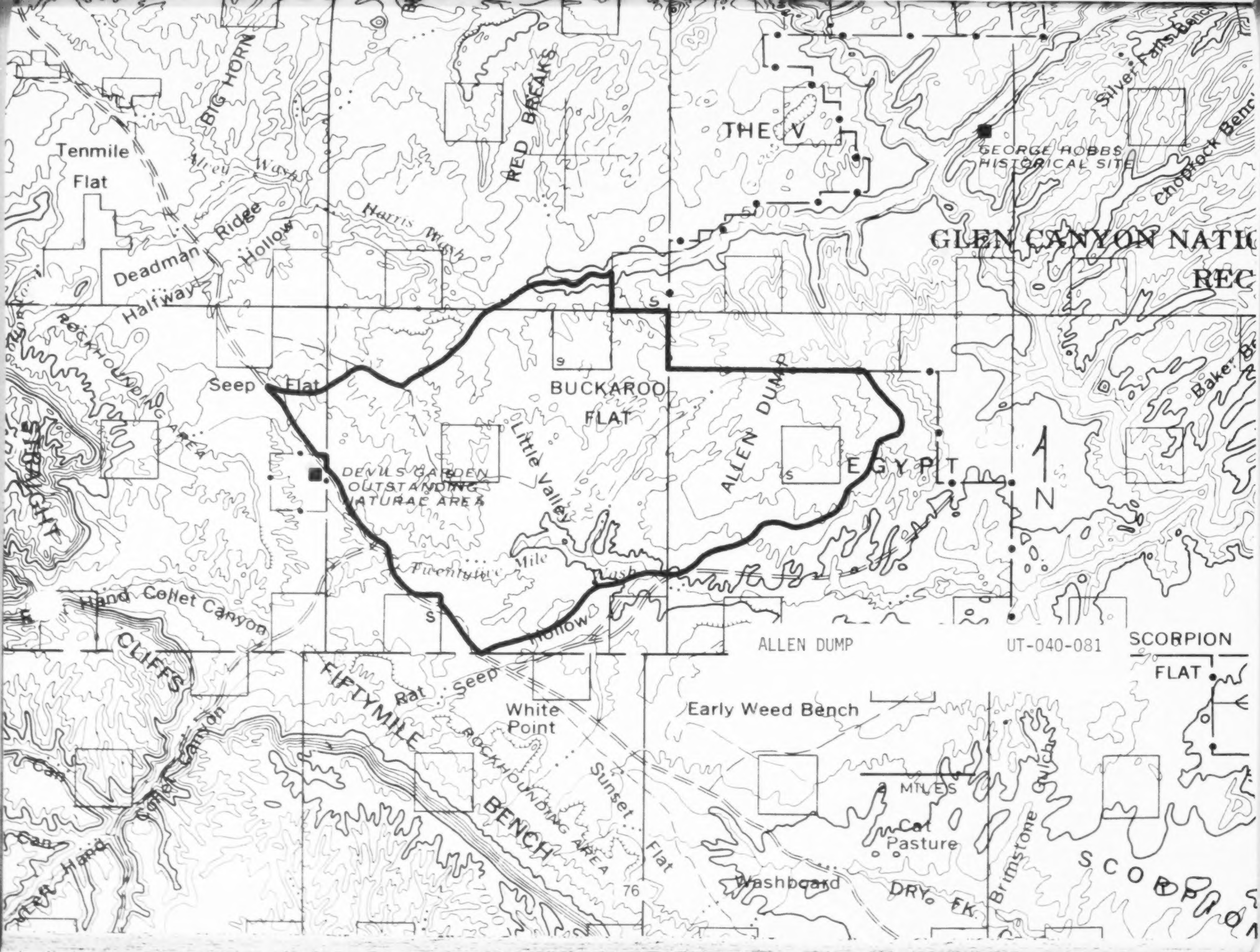
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Two areas within the unit offer opportunities for geologic sightseeing. Little Valley, also known as Little Bryce Valley or Sunset Valley, is a badlands-type area. There is also a small area about one acre in size which is similar to Devil's Garden. The small size of the area similar to Devil's Garden and the location of roads and ways near Little Valley preclude outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation. The topography of the rest of the unit also precludes outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The only supplemental values found within the unit were two geological features. Little Valley is a badlands-type area. There is also a small area similar to Devil's Garden within the unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Seven comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. All of the comments agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments submitted agreed with the BLM rationale that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive wilderness inventory recommendation.


ALLEN DUMP
UT-040-081
SCORPION
FLAT
GLEN CANYON NATI
REC
THE V
GEORGE HOBBS
HISTORICAL SITE
Silver Falls Bench
Choprock Bench
BIG HORN
Tenmile
Flat
RED BREAKS
Harris Wash
Deadman
Ridge
Hollow
Halfway
ROCKHOUNDING AREA
Seep
Flat
BUCKAROO
FLAT
Little Valley
ALLEN DUMP
EGYPT
N
DEVILS GARDEN
OUTSTANDING
NATURAL AREA
Twentyfive Mile
Wash
Hollow
Hand Collet Canyon
CLIFFS
STRAIGHT
FIFTYMILE
BENCH
Rat
Seep
White
Point
Sunset
Flat
76
Early Weed Bench
2 MILES
Cat
Pasture
Washboard
DRY FK.
Brimstone Gulch
SCORPION
Bake

UNIT NUMBER: UT-040-082 WSA ACREAGE: 35,884

UNIT NAME: SCORPION UNIT ACREAGE: 45,803

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located about 25 miles southeast of the town of Escalante.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 45,803 acres of public lands and encloses 3,689 acres of State land. The unit is contiguous to the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area wilderness proposal.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. A road leads to the Egypt trailhead in the northern part of the unit. A way in Rat Seep Hollow and ways and a road on Early Weed Bench are substantially noticeable and intrude upon naturalness. A developed well on Early Weed Bench is also a visible imprint of man. Two ways on the bench east of the Dry Fork of Coyote Gulch and the way which leads to Liston Seep are substantially noticeable.

The locations of the intrusions on Early Weed Bench divide the unit into two areas: The Twenty-Five-Mile Wash area (UT-040-082A) and the Scorpion area (UT-040-082B).

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Both UT-040-082A and UT-040-082B provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Both Twenty-Five-Mile Wash and its side canyons and the side canyons of the Dry Fork of Coyote Gulch are narrow and winding and offer excellent screening opportunities. The nature of the topography also enhances the opportunity for people to find isolation and seclusion. A more detailed description of the solitude characteristics of these two areas can be found in Utah Proposed Wilderness Study Areas, April 1980.

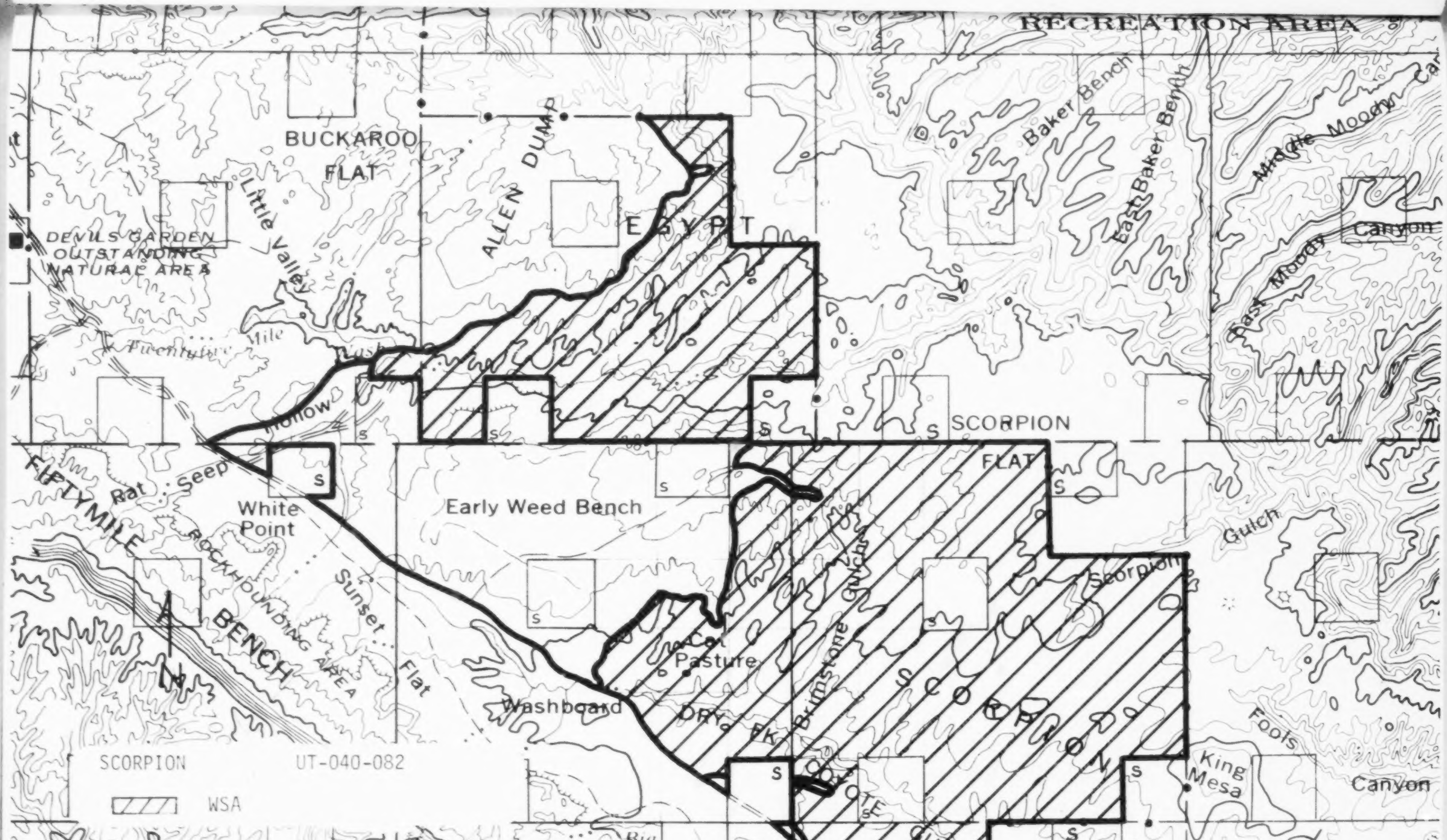
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Units UT-040-082A and UT-040-082B offer outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation activities including hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and sightseeing. Side canyons found in these two units are some of the most narrow canyons in the Escalante River Canyon system. Twenty-Five-Mile Wash, Egypt and the Dry Fork of Coyote Gulch provide access to the Escalante River. The recreation opportunities within these units are even more significant when considered in conjunction with the opportunities in the contiguous Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. A more detailed description of the primitive and unconfined recreation characteristics of these two units can be found in Utah Proposed Wilderness Study Areas, April 1980.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: These two units contain geological and archaeological values. A detailed description is in Utah Proposed Wilderness Study Areas, April 1980.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Twenty-two comments provided information regarding wilderness characteristics. Thirteen comments stated that 35,884 acres possessed naturalness. Fifteen comments stated that the unit offered outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive, unconfined recreation. Four comments stated that the unit lacked one or both of the solitude or primitive recreation characteristics.

4. DECISION: The two subunits, UT-040-082A (9,618 acres) and UT-040-082B (26,266 acres), are identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Imprints of man identified in the comments were found to be outside the boundaries of the unit or within areas judged to lack naturalness during the intensive inventory, or found to not exist. Imprints exterior to the unit were determined to not preclude opportunities for solitude within the unit. The comments disagreed as to whether or not topographic screening provided outstanding opportunities for solitude. It is determined that there is sufficient topographic screening for outstanding solitude, and that outstanding opportunities exist for primitive and unconfined recreation within the two subunits. One comment could not be considered since it cited alternate land uses as the reason for deleting portions of the unit. Alternate land uses cannot be considered during the intensive inventory.


RECREATION AREA
BUCKAROO FLAT
ALLEN DUMP
EGYPT
DEVILS GARDEN OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA
Little Valley
Baker Bench
East Baker Bench
Middle Moody
East Moody
Canyon
SCORPION FLAT
Hollow
Rat Seep
White Point
Early Weed Bench
FIFTYMILE BENCH
ROCKHOUNDING AREA
Sunset Flat
Washboard
Cat Pasture
DRY FK
Brimstone Gulch
SCORPION
Scorpion
Gulch
Fools Canyon
King Mesa
Les George
COYOTE GULCH
Wash
HOLE-IN-THE-ROCK TRAIL
JACOB HAMBLIN ARCH
CHIMNEY ROCK
COYOTE NATURAL BR
78
2 MILES
Rogers Canyon
Willow
FIFTY
SCORPION UT-040-082
WSA

UNIT NO.: [illegible] WSA ACREAGE: [illegible]

UNIT NAME: DANCE HALL ROCK UNIT ACREAGE: 6,972

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located about 43 miles southeast of the town of Escalante.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 6,972 acres of public lands.

During the intensive inventory, it was found that the boundary road (as shown in the initial inventory) which divides the unit from UT-040-084 does not meet the definition of a road in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook. Therefore, unit UT-040-084 is actually a part of UT-040-085 and was inventoried as part of UT-040-085.

B. NATURALNESS: There are three ways and a drill site in the northern part of the unit. Two of the ways have overgrown and they are substantially unnoticeable. The way which leads to the drill site and the drill site have also overgrown, but are substantially noticeable because of the distinct change in vegetative color. A way north of Dance Hall Rock penetrates deeply into the unit and is substantially noticeable except for the last .5 to 1 mile where the sandy soils cause it to be less apparent. The southwest portion of the unit near Dance Hall Rock and Fortymile Spring contains a road, several ways, fences, corral, and a developed spring. The cumulative effect of these imprints is a significant impact on naturalness. The extent and locations of imprints within the unit impair the naturalness of the entire unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The flat topography and low-growing vegetation provide little topographic or vegetative screening. Views across the unit are possible from many locations within the unit. It would be extremely difficult to avoid the sights, sounds, or other evidence of other people within the unit. None of the unit provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

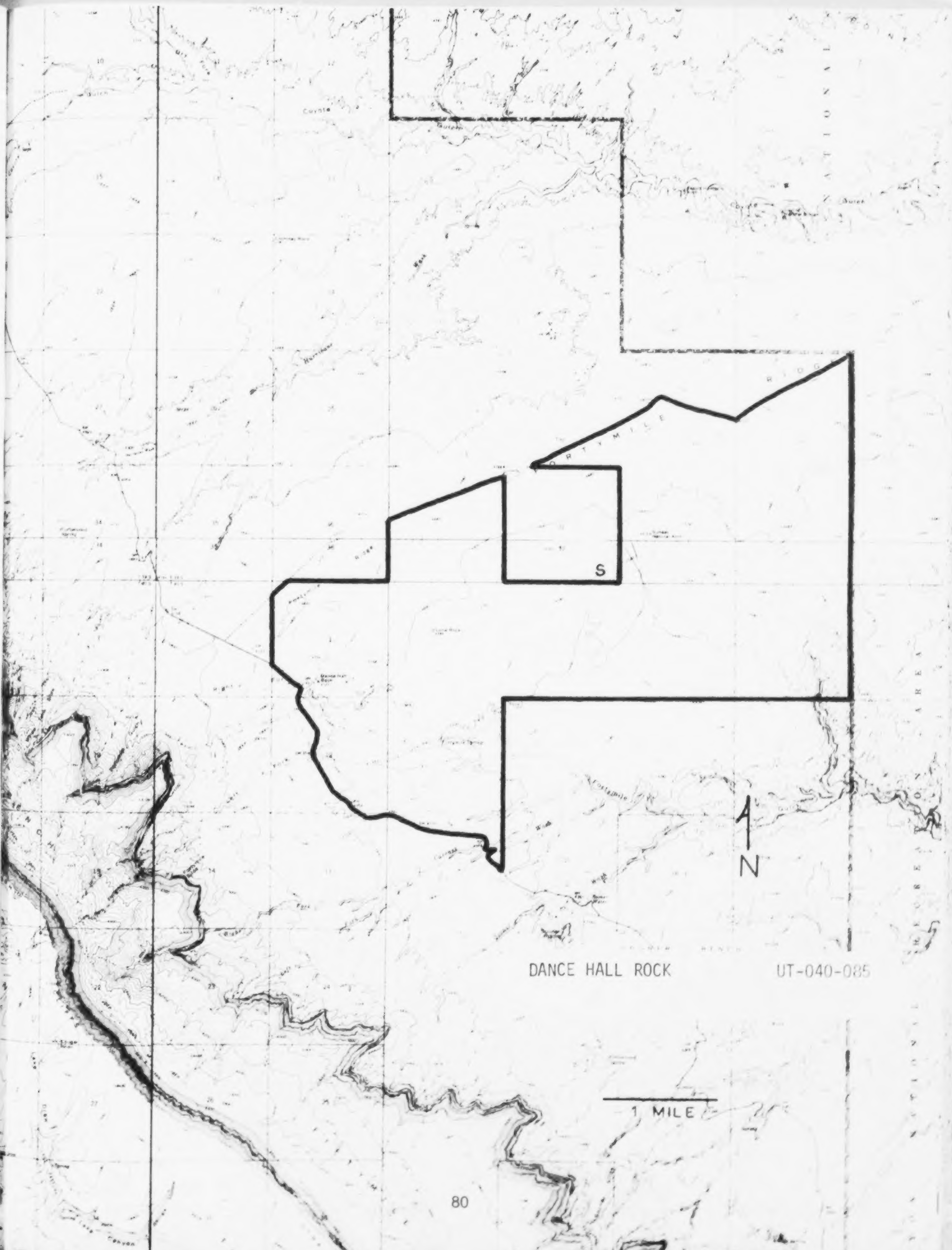
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The flat topography does not provide any outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation activities. Dance Hall Rock and the protions of the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail within the unit provide opportunities for historical sightseeing but because of their proximity to the Hole-in-the-Rock Road, this activity cannot be considered to be primitive, unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains portions of the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail and Dance Hall Rock which are important historical features. The trail is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and Dance Hall Rock was designated as a historical site by the Secretary of Interior in 1970. Geological features include Sunset Arch and an unnamed arch near Sunset Arch.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. All of the comments agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments submitted agreed with the BLM rationale that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive wilderness inventory recommendation.



FORTYMILE RIDGE
S
N
DANCE HALL ROCK
UT-040-085
1 MILE

UNIT NO.: UT-040-087 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: SOONER WATER UNIT ACREAGE: 123

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located about forty-seven miles southeast of the town of Escalante.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 123 acres of public lands. Although it is less than 5,000 acres in size, it is contoguous to the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area wilderness proposal, and meets one of the size criteria listed on page 12 of the Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

B. NATURALNESS: Most of this unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work being substantially unnoticeable. There are two ways within the unit, but they are portions of the Historic Hole-in-the-Rock Trail. Because of the historic significance of the trail, these ways cannot be considered as imprints on the naturalness characteristic.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The generally flat to gently rolling topography, the low-growing vegetation, and the small size of the unit preclude opportunities for isolation or seclusion. Clear views across the unit are possible from many locations within the unit. It would be difficult to avoid the sights, sounds, or other evidence of people in the unit.

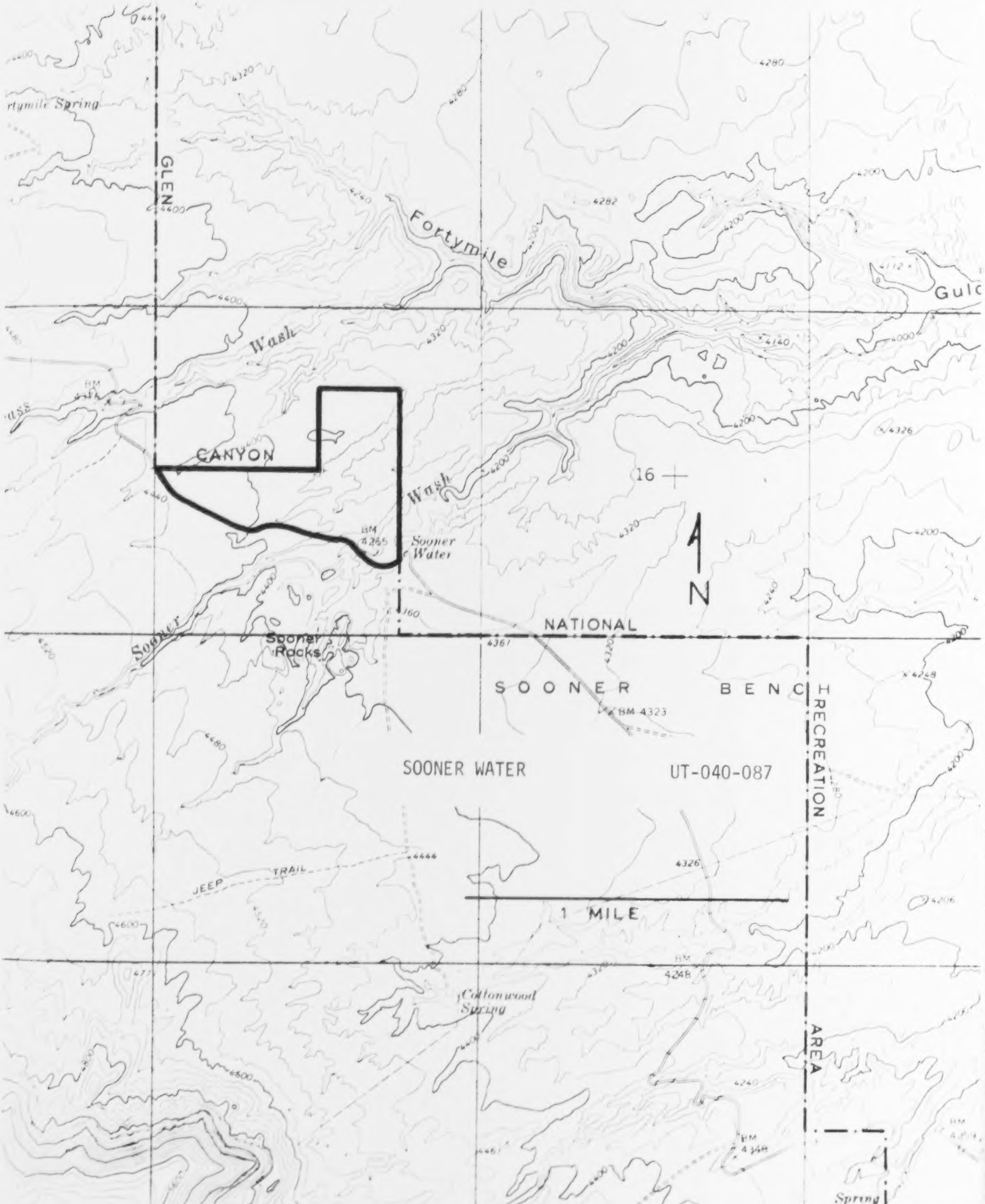
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation. Activities such as horseback riding and hiking are possible, but the topography does not allow for diversity in the number and type of recreational activities which could occur, nor does it provide outstanding opportunities for any one activity.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Portions of the historic Hole-in-the-Rock Trail are within the unit. The trail has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. All of the comments agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments submitted agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive wilderness inventory recommendation.



rtymile Spring
GLEN
Fortymile
Gulc
Wash
CANYON
Wash
Sooner Water
Sooner
Sooner Rocks
NATIONAL
SOONER BENC
RECREATION
AREA
N
16
BM 4323
SOONER WATER
UT-040-087
JEEP TRAIL
1 MILE
Cottonwood Spring
Spring

UNIT NO.: UT-040-088 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: SOONER BENCH UNIT ACREAGE: 142

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located about forty-eight miles southeast of the town of Escalante.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 142 acres of public lands. Although the unit is less than 5,000 acres in size, it is contiguous to the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area wilderness proposal, and therefore meets one of the size exceptions specified in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

B. NATURALNESS: No intrusions were found within the unit. The unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The flat to slightly rolling topography, the low-growing vegetation, and the small size of the unit preclude outstanding opportunities for solitude. Clear views across the unit are possible from most locations within the unit. It would be extremely difficult to avoid the sights, sounds, or other evidence of people within the unit.

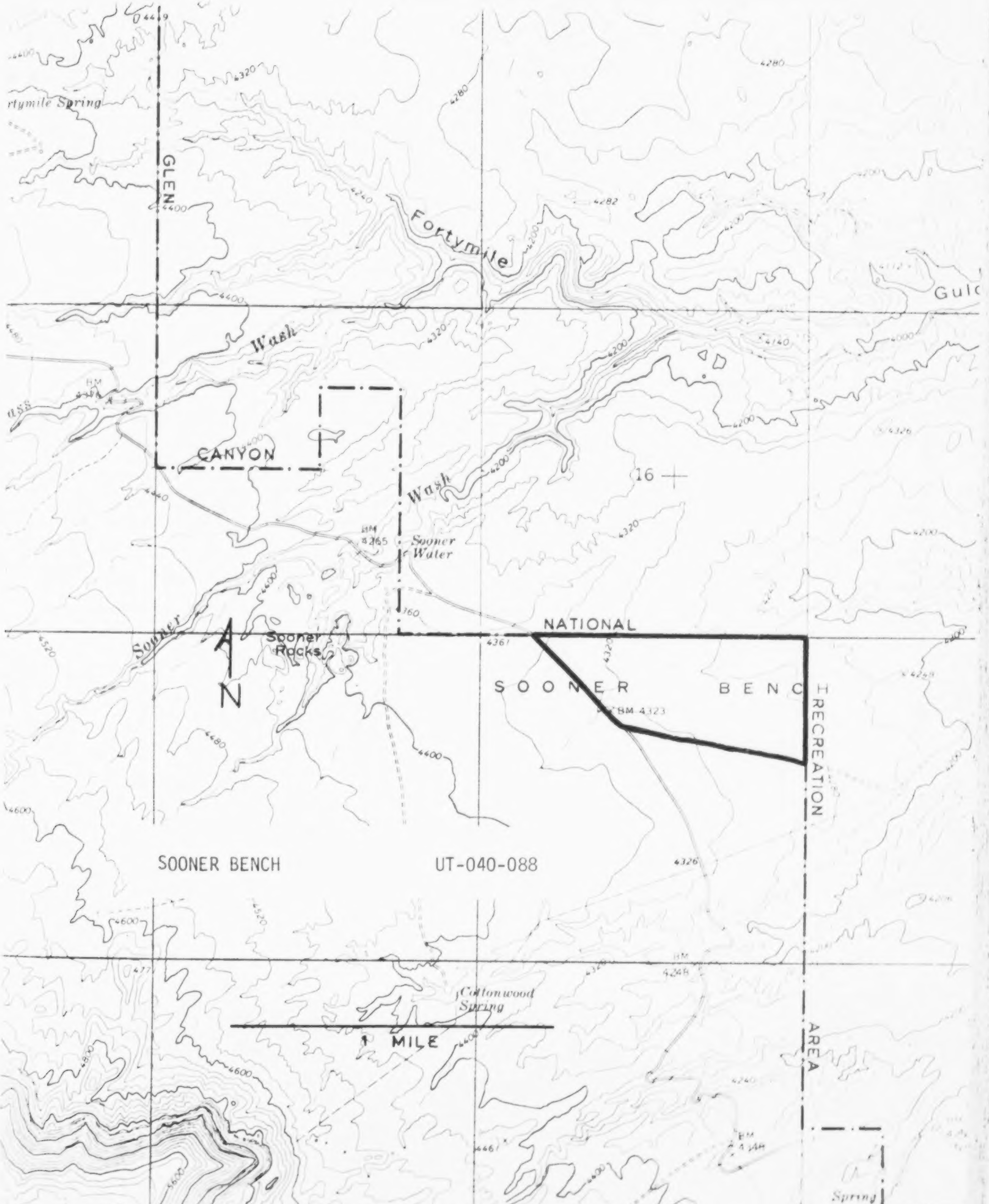
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation. Activities such as horseback riding and hiking are possible, but the topography does not allow for diversity in the number and type of recreational activities which could occur, nor does it provide outstanding opportunities for any one activity.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: No supplemental values were found within the unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. All of the comments agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments submitted agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive wilderness inventory recommendation.



Fortymile Spring
GLEN
CANYON
NATIONAL
RECREATION
AREA
Fortymile
Wash
Gulc
Sooner Water
Sooner
Sooner Rocks
SOONER BENCH
BM 4323
N
SOONER BENCH
UT-040-088
Cottonwood Spring
1 MILE
Spring
16

UNIT NO.: UT-040-089 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: WILLOW GULCH UNIT ACREAGE: 259

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located about forty-eight miles southeast of the town of Escalante.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTIC:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 259 acres of public lands. Although the unit is less than 5,000 acres in size, it is contiguous to the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area wilderness proposal, and therefore meets one of the size exceptions specified on page 12 of the Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

B. NATURALNESS: Most of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The only imprints of man are a way and a fence. The way has begun to rehabilitate naturally and is presently considered to be substantially unnoticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The flat to slightly rolling topography, the low-growing vegetation, and the small size of the unit preclude opportunities for isolation or seclusion. Views across the unit are possible from most locations within the unit. It would be difficult to avoid the sights, sounds, or other evidence of other people in the unit.

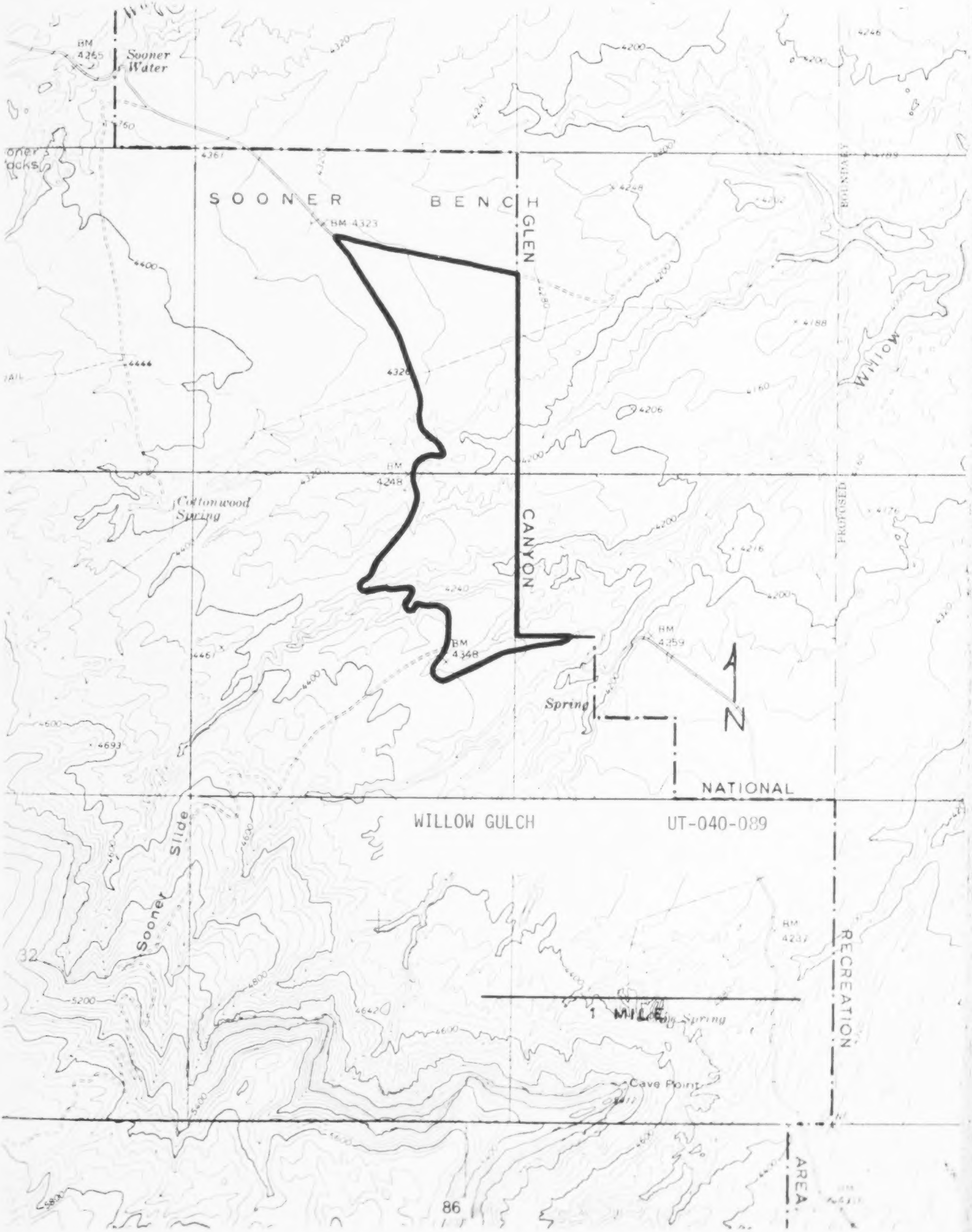
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation. Activities such as horseback riding and hiking are possible, but the topography does not allow for diversity in the number and type of recreational activities which could occur, nor does it provide outstanding opportunities for any one activity.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: No supplemental values were found within the unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. All of the comments agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments submitted agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.


Sooner Water
SOONER BENCH
GLEN CANYON
Cottonwood Spring
Spring
N
NATIONAL
RECREATION
AREA
WILLOW GULCH
UT-040-089
Sooner Slide
Willow
Cave Point
1 MILE
BM 4323
BM 4248
BM 4348
BM 4259
BM 4237
BM 4265

UNIT NO.: UT-040-090 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: CAVE POINT UNIT ACREAGE: 5,142

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located about fifty miles southeast of the town of Escalante (Kane County).

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 5,142 acres of public lands.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of this area appears to be affected primarily by natural forces. The area below the Fiftymile Bench contains a way and a fence which do not impair naturalness. On the Fiftymile Bench, there are four ways, four reservoirs, and a developed spring which are not considered to have a substantial impact. The road which leads to the cabin and corral**all** Pole Well are all substantially noticeable.

Within the unit, 4,922 acres are considered to possess naturalness and 220 acres contain imprints of man which are substantially noticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The cliffs of the Fiftymile Bench provide a topographic barrier between the eastern and western portions of the unit. However, both the area below the bench and the bench are relatively flat and have low-growing vegetation which preclude opportunity for visitors to screen themselves from one another. None of the unit provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

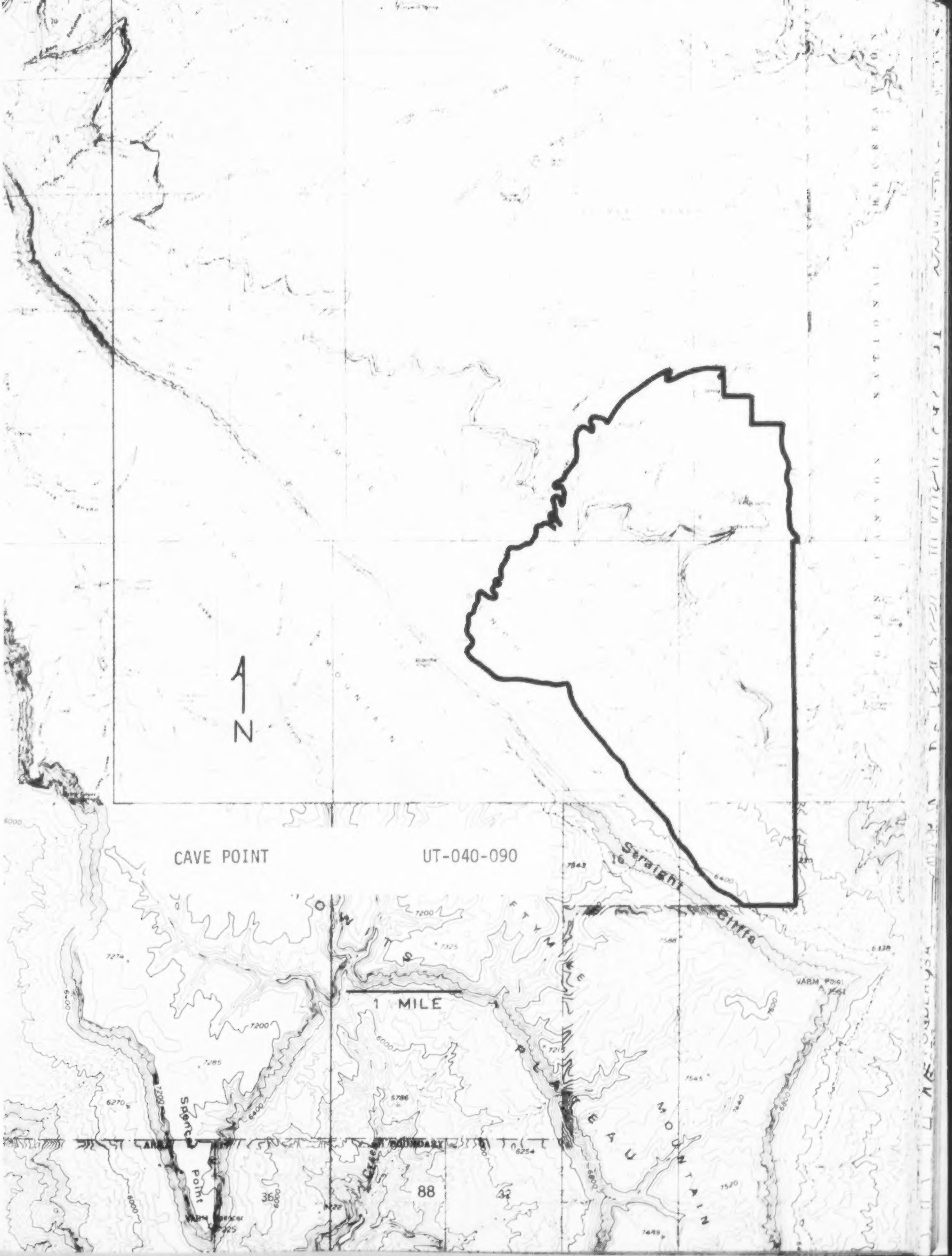
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The topography of the unit precludes outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation. A few locations on the cliffs of the Fiftymile Bench could provide rock climbing opportunities, but would be very dangerous due to the unstable structure of the rock.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are four areas on the cliffs of Fiftymile Bench which contain pedestal rocks, some of which are over 100 feet high. Panoramas of the Escalante River drainage and the Henry Mountains are possible from the top of the Fiftymile Bench.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. All of the comments agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments submitted agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive wilderness inventory recommendation.



N
CAVE POINT
UT-040-090
1 MILE
Straight Cliffs
POWELL
PLATEAU
MOUNTAIN
Spencer
Point
AREA BOUNDARY
VABM Spencer
VABM Point
88

UNIT NO.: UT-040-091 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: FIFTYMILE CREEK UNIT ACREAGE: 125

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located about fifty miles southeast of the town of Escalante.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 125 acres of public lands. Although the unit is less than 5,000 acres in size, it is contiguous to the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area wilderness proposal, and therefore meets one of the size exceptions listed on page 12 of the Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. A way and a fence are within the unit, but both were considered to be substantially unnoticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The flat to gently rolling topography, the low-growing vegetation, and the small size of the unit preclude outstanding opportunities for isolation or seclusion. Views across the unit are possible from many locations within the unit. It would be difficult to avoid the sights, sounds, or other evidence of people in the unit.

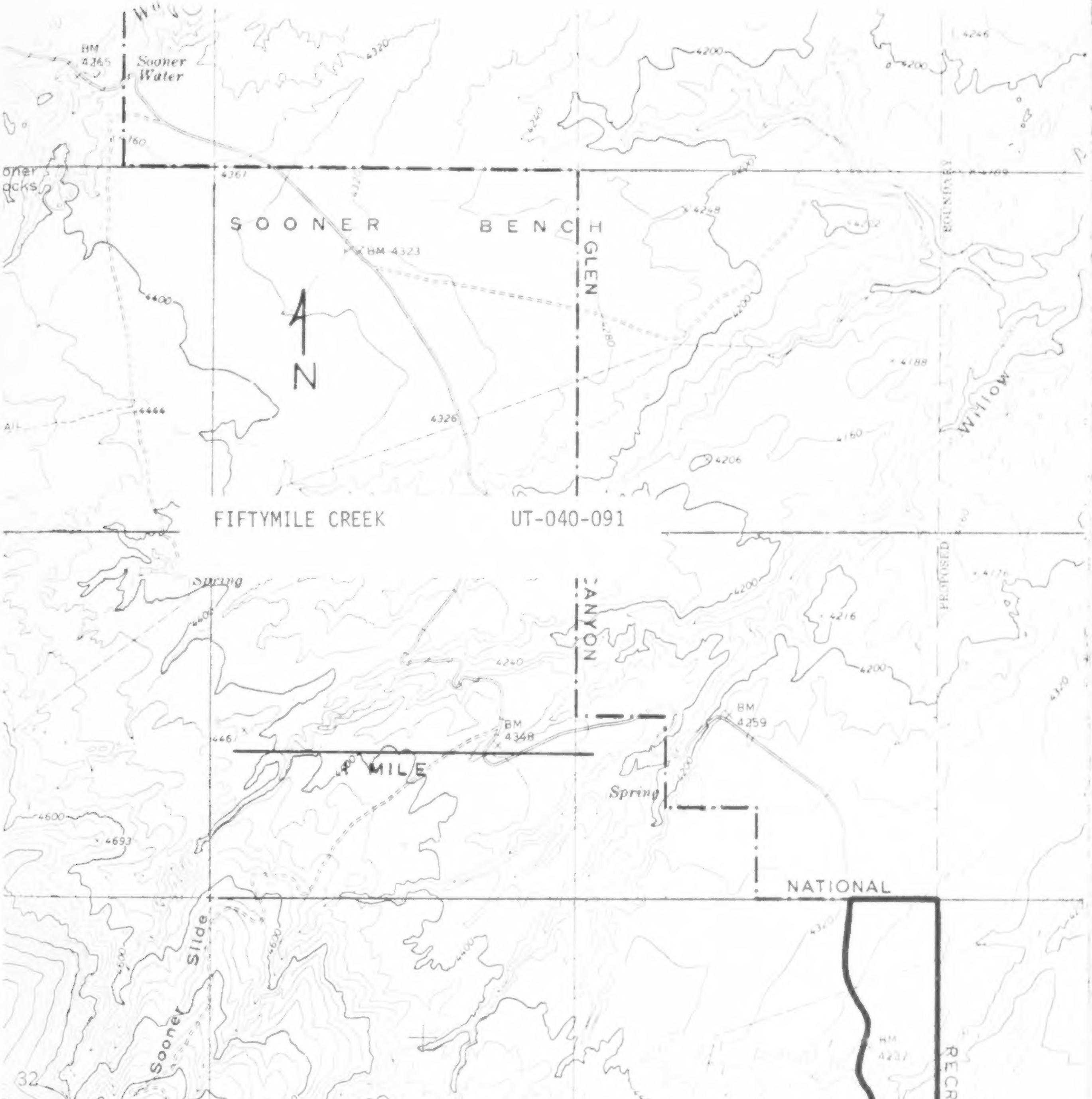
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation. Activities such as horseback riding and hiking are possible, but the topography does not allow for diversity in the number and type of recreational activities which could occur, nor does it provide outstanding opportunities for any one activity.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: A supplemental value within the unit may be a portion of the historic Hole-in-the-Rock Trail. Maps in the Escalante Resource Area files show a portion of the trail to be within the unit. However, no physical evidence of the trail was found within the unit. The trail has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. All of the comments agreed with the BLM rationale that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments submitted agreed with the BLM rationale that the unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive wilderness inventory recommendation.



Sooner Water
SOONER BENCH
BM 4323
GLEN CANYON
FIFTYMILE CREEK
UT-040-091
Willow
Spring
BM 4348
BM 4259
MILE
NATIONAL
RECREATION
AREA
Sooner Slide
Cave Point

UNIT NO.: UT-040-092 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: COYOTE GULCH UNIT ACREAGE: 30

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located about thirty-five miles southeast of the town of Escalante (Kane County).

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 30 acres of public lands. Although it is less than 5,000 acres in si e, it is contiguous to the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area wilderness proposal, and therefore meets one of the size exceptions listed in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit appears to have been primarily affected by the forces of nature. No imprints of man were found within the unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The flat to slightly rolling topography, the low growing vegetation, and the small size of the unit preclude outstanding opportunities for isolation or seclusion. It would be extremely difficult to avoid the sights, sounds, or other evidence of people in the unit.

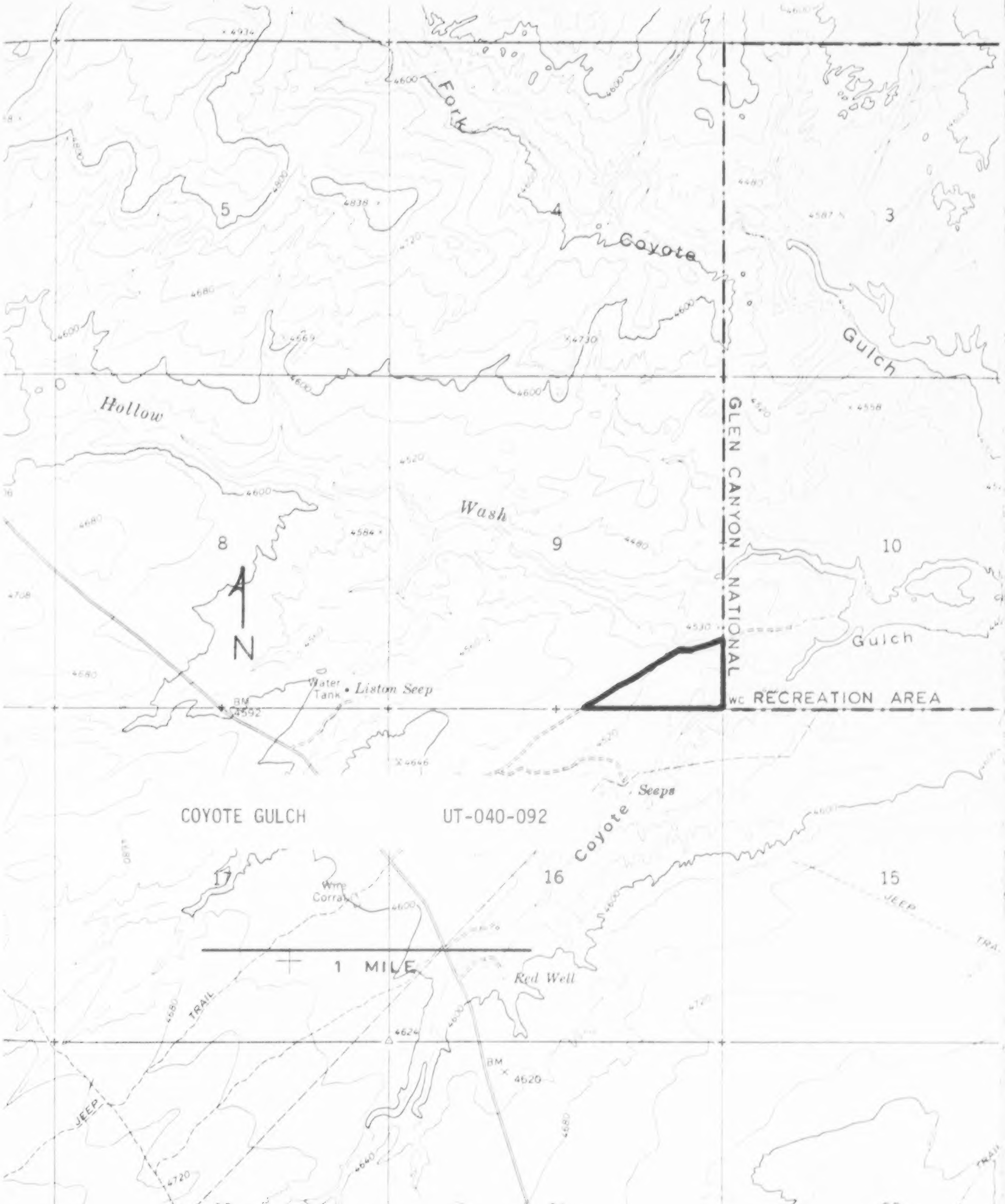
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation. Activities such as horseback riding and hiking are possible, but the topography does not allow for diversity in the number and type of recreational activities which could occur, nor does it provide outstanding opportunities for any one activity.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: No supplemental values were found within the unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. All of the comments agreed with the BLM rationale that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments submitted agreed with the BLM rationale that the unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive wilderness inventory recommendation.


Fork
Coyote
Gulch
Hollow
Wash
GLEN CANYON NATIONAL
RECREATION AREA
Gulch
Water Tank
Liston Seep
Seeps
Coyote
COYOTE GULCH
UT-040-092
Wire Corral
1 MILE
Red Well
TRAIL
JEEP
JEEP
TRAIL
N
5
4
3
8
9
10
17
16
15
20
21
22
92

UNIT NO. UT-040-104 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME MOUNTAIN HOME RANGE UNIT ACREAGE: 19,019

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit includes the Mountain Home Range which is located in the extreme northwest corner of Beaver County.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 19,019 acres of public lands and encloses 640 acres of State lands.

B. NATURALNESS: This unit includes three ways which penetrate the unit from the west boundary. Approximately three miles of way are involved. Each of these ways is substantially noticeable. Lopers cabin and three associated ways are located on the southeastern portion of the unit. These imprints by man are also substantially noticeable. A major way (2.3 miles) exists on the entire length of the summit ridge, above timber-line, on the Mountain Home Range. All of these imprints are considered substantially noticeable. In accord with the instructions in OAD 78-61, Change 2, the boundary of the area containing the naturalness wilderness characteristic has been relocated on the physical edge of the imprint of man. The area within the unit containing the naturalness characteristic contains approximately 19,000 acres of public land.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: It would be difficult for a person to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people in the above timberline portions of the Mountain Home Range. In the western portion of the unit below the 7600 feet contour, the land begins a long gentle slope to Hamlin Valley. The vegetation in this area is not sufficiently dense to offer natural screening to the user. Solitude is present in the remainder of the unit. Most of the remaining unit is composed of either steep timbered slopes or a limestone escarpment and outcroppings immediately below the summit plateau. Although solitude exists in this portion of the unit, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The Mountain Home Range offers some opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Hiking would be possible in the upper portions of the range. However, the opportunity for overnight backpacking is very limited and perhaps nonexistent due to the steep slopes. Exploration of the shallow limestone caves in the escarpment is another possible recreation activity.

Sightseeing for botanical features (bristlecone pine) is also possible. None of these opportunities are outstanding and the mountain range lacks a diversity of primitive recreational activities. The unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The existence of bristlecone pines and the limestone caves could be considered supplemental values. These features could not be considered unique or unusual.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Fifteen comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. Ten comments stated that 19,011 acres possessed the naturalness characteristic. Six comments stated that outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation did not exist. Nine comments stated that the unit exhibited outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation. A detailed analysis of comments is available in the permanent unit file.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Six comments agreed with the original proposal. Many of the nine disagreeing comments cited inventory criteria not found in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook. A reexamination of the vegetation and topography of the unit indicates that nowhere within the unit could vegetative or topographic screening be considered superior and that in large portions of the unit they could not provide any solitude. There is no evidence that the Mountain Home Range supports exceptional populations of mountain lion and raptors. A more detailed decision rationale is in the permanent unit file.

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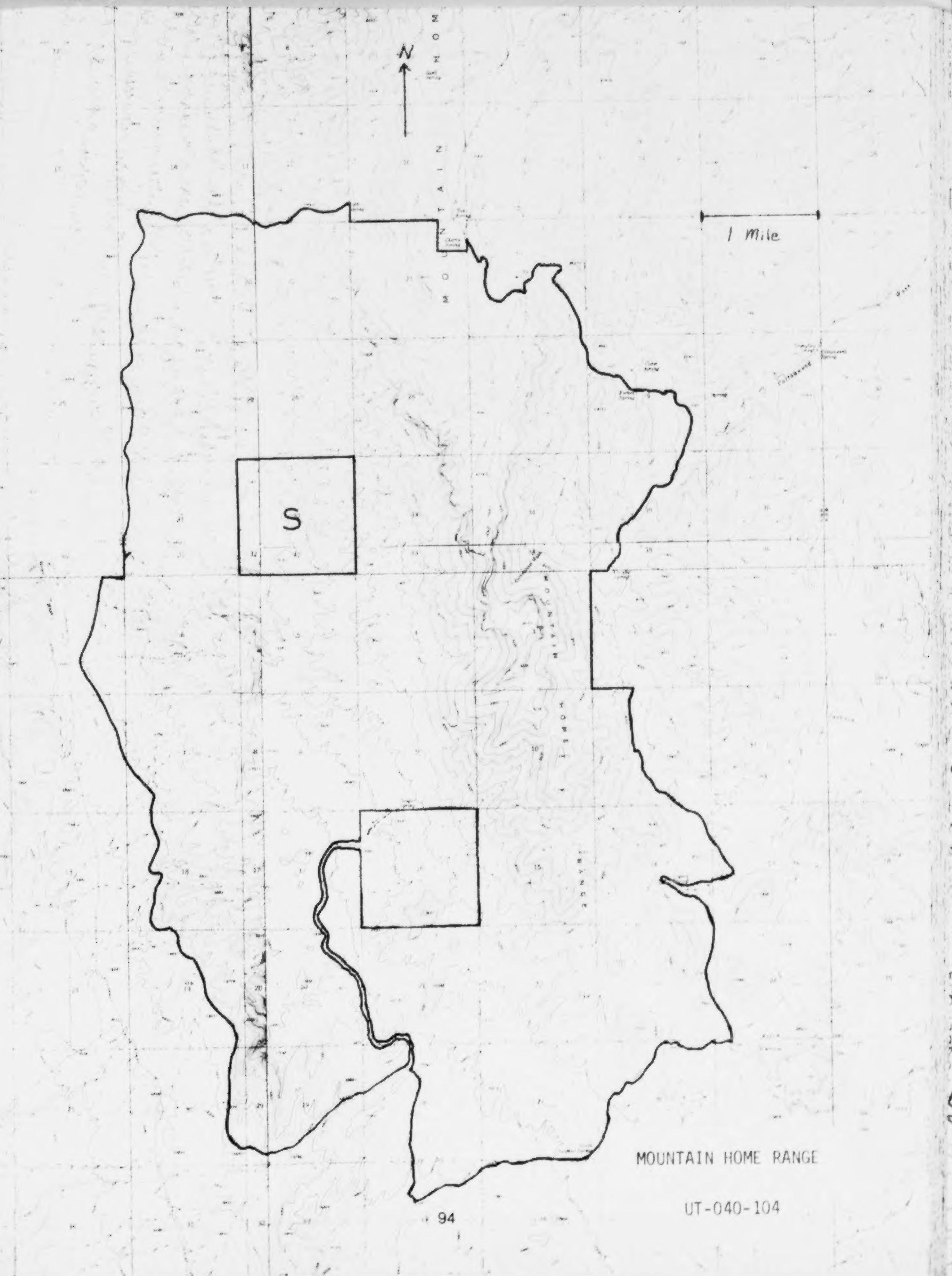


MOUNTAIN HOME RANGE

UT-040-104

UNIT NO.: UT-040-132 WSA ACREAGE: 18,250

UNIT NAME: RED MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE: 20,260

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: Red Mountain is a red sandstone plateau rising over one thousand feet above surrounding lands. It is located approximately nine miles northwest of St. George, Utah.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 20,260 acres of public lands and encloses 800 acres of state lands, and 40 acres of private lands.

B. NATURALNESS: The imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable throughout most of the unit.

Human intrusions are limited to two peripheral electrical lines, (one in the northeast, one in the southwest), some peripheral dirt vehicle ways, and a single penetrating 4-wheel drive way. This way, approximately 2 miles in length, is only passable for approximately 0.5 mile.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The unit does have an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit consists of Red Mountain, a large mass of red sandstone rising abruptly to 1400 feet above surrounding lands on the south. On the north, the rise is less abrupt and is less than 1000 feet. The top is a large plateau with significant topographic variation including buttes, spires and shallow canyons. This provides opportunities for solitude. The plateau top isolation of the major part of the unit also provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

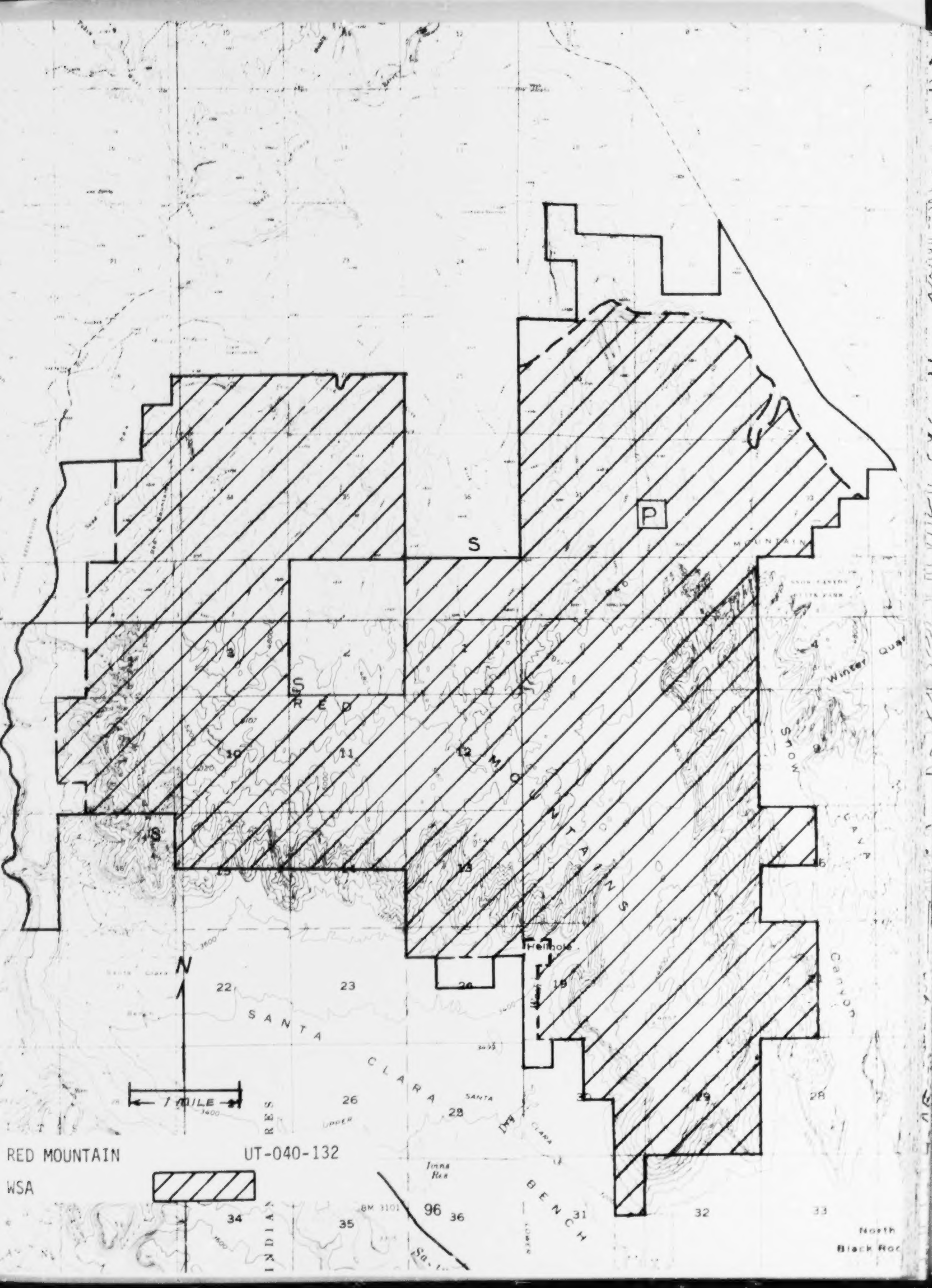
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Because of the physical nature of the plateau, the unit provides an outstanding opportunity for various types of recreation. Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting are all possible and these opportunities are superior to surrounding lands. The use of horses is facilitated by the presence of several fresh-water ponds that apparently contain year-round water.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit provides spectacular views, including the view into Snow Canyon. Snow Canyon is partially within the unit. The State of Utah Department of Wildlife Resources is studying a possible reintroduction of desert bighorn sheep into the area.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Fourteen comments containing information about wilderness characteristics were submitted. Ten comments stated that the unit possesses the naturalness characteristic. One comment states that imprints of man's work in the unit eliminate naturalness. Ten comments stated that the solitude and primitive recreation characteristics are present in the unit. No comments stating that the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation were received.

4. DECISION: 18,250 acres of this unit are identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Nearly all comments concurred with the reasoning for proposing Red Mountain as a WSA. One comment pointed out the presence of two ways. However, the substantially noticeable portions of these ways have been eliminated from the area possessing the naturalness characteristic. The comment also raised issues which would be addressed during the wilderness study phase. All other comments supported the preliminary findings that a portion of the unit has wilderness characteristics.

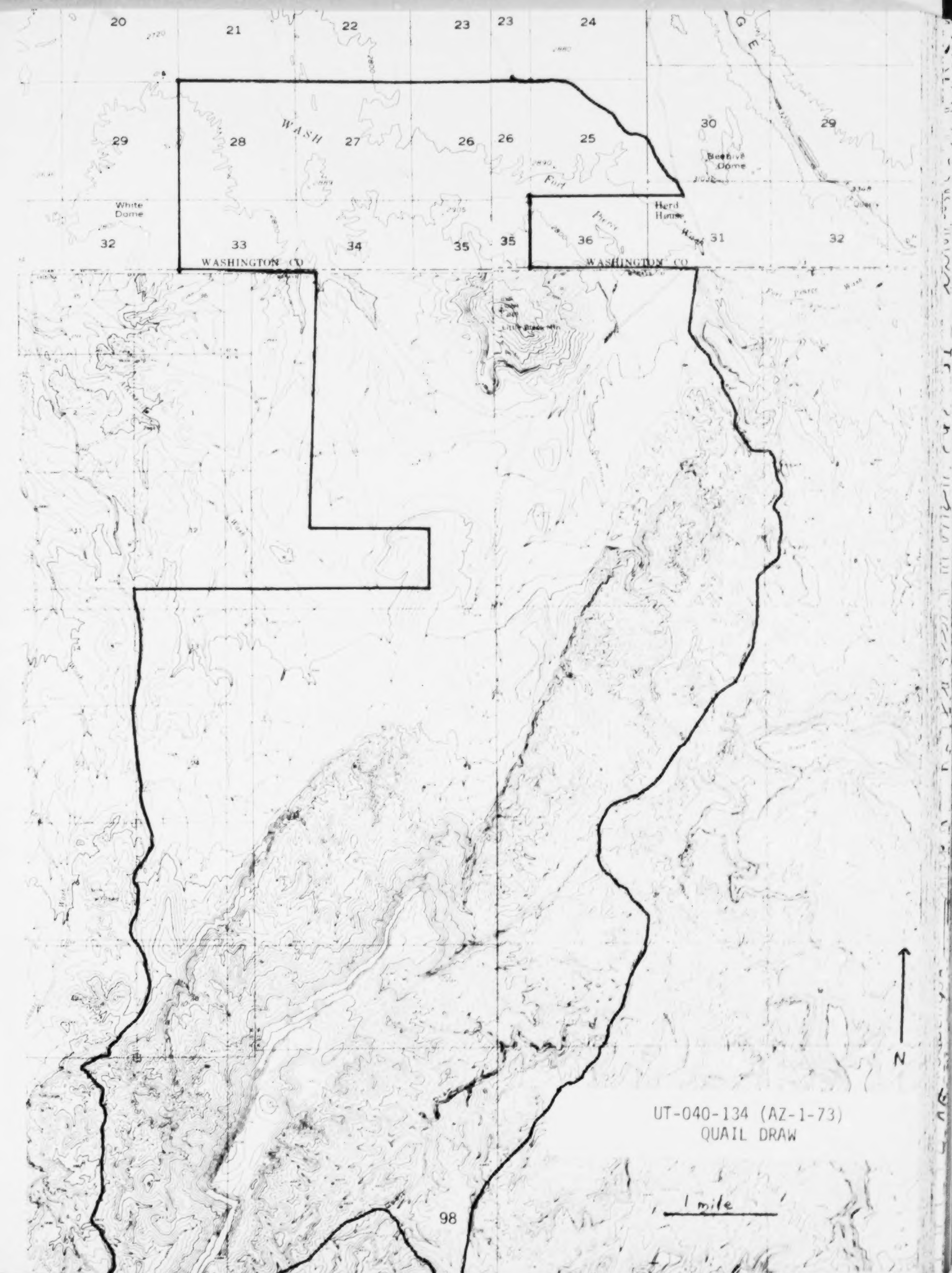


RED MOUNTAIN
WSA
UT-040-132
1 MILE
N
S
P
RED
MOUNTAINS
SANTA
CLARA
BENCH
INDIAN
RES.
Hellhole
Snow
Canyon
Winter Quar
North
Black Roc
96

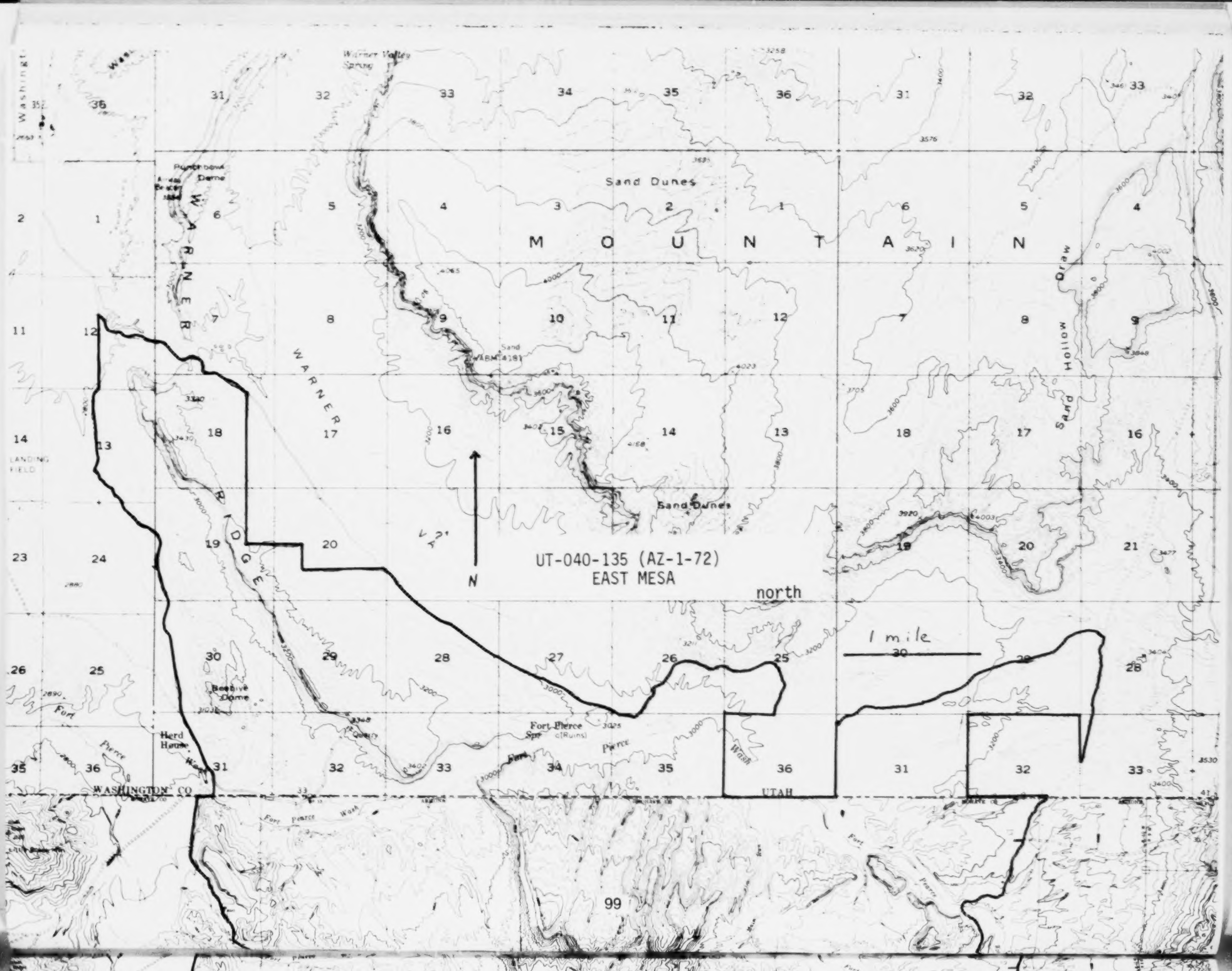
Eleven units are Utah-Arizona units interstate with the Cedar City and Arizona Strip Districts. Ten units are determined to lack wilderness characteristics. A portion of unit UT-040-143/AZ-010-041, Canaan Mountain, qualifies as a WSA. The unit numbers, names, and acreages are listed below.

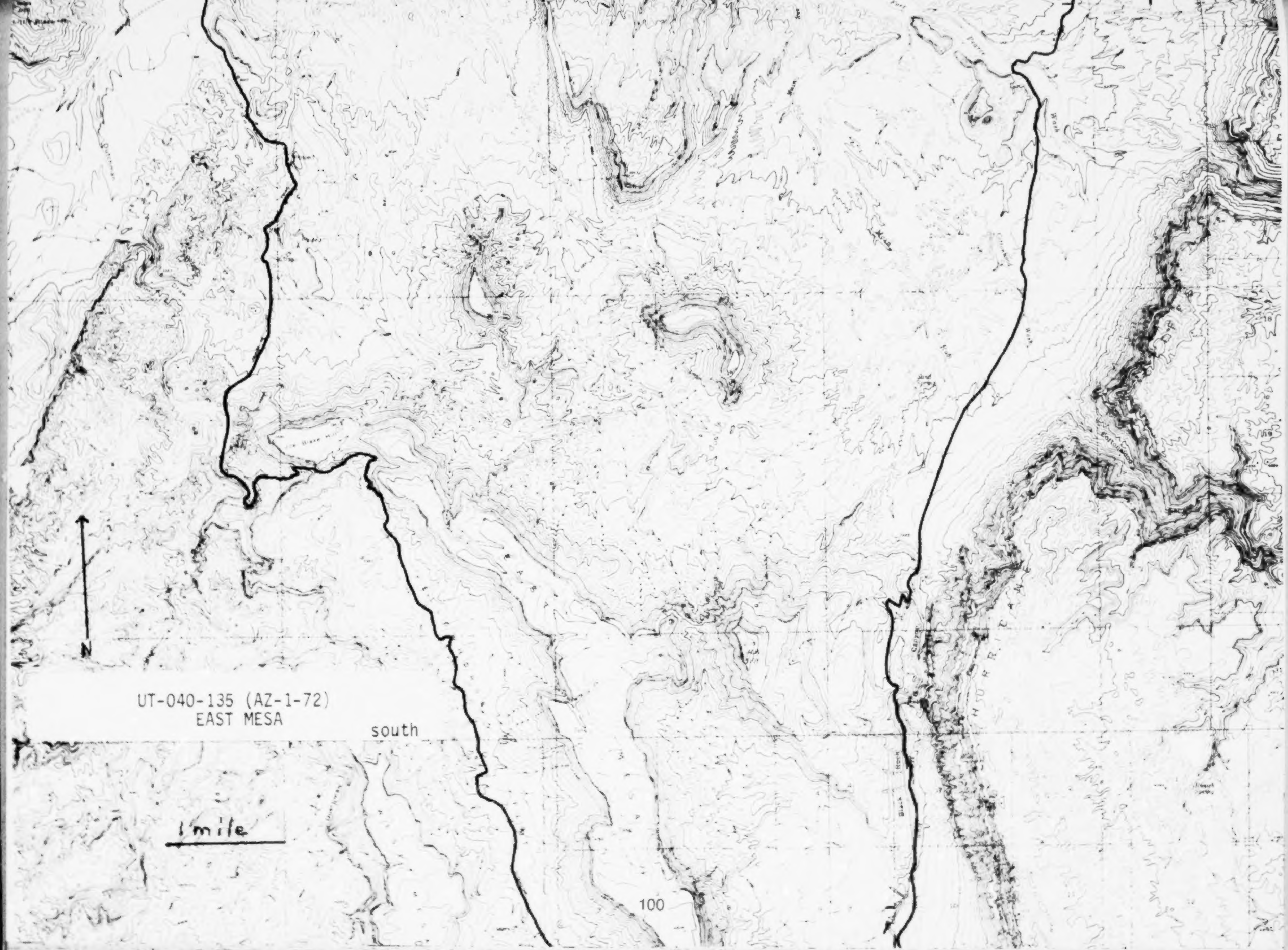
UT-040-134/AZ-010-073, Quail Draw - 22,540 acres (2,635 Utah)
UT-040-135/AZ-010-072, East Mesa - 35,511 acres (6,225 Utah)
UT-040-137/AZ-010-069, Canaan Gap - 23,250 acres (300 Utah)
UT-040-138/AZ-010-071, Cottonwood Canyon - 55,868 acres (14,396 Utah)
UT-040-143/AZ-010-041, Canaan Mountain - 69,500 acres (62,710 Utah)
WSA - 53,619 acres (47,170 Utah)
UT-040-218/AZ-010-040, Bull Pasture - 16,702 acres (5,668 Utah)
UT-040-219/AZ-010-027, Shinarump Cliffs - 14,233 acres (537 Utah)
UT-040-223/AZ-010-026, Meeggins Flat - 23,158 acres (9,308 Utah)
UT-040-224/AZ-010-023, Pasture Canyon - 14,287 acres (437 Utah)
UT-040-226/AZ-010-022, Buckskin Mountains - 12,392 acres (3,328 Utah)
UT-040-274/AZ-010-021, Pine Hollow Canyon - 22,098 acres (9,343 Utah)

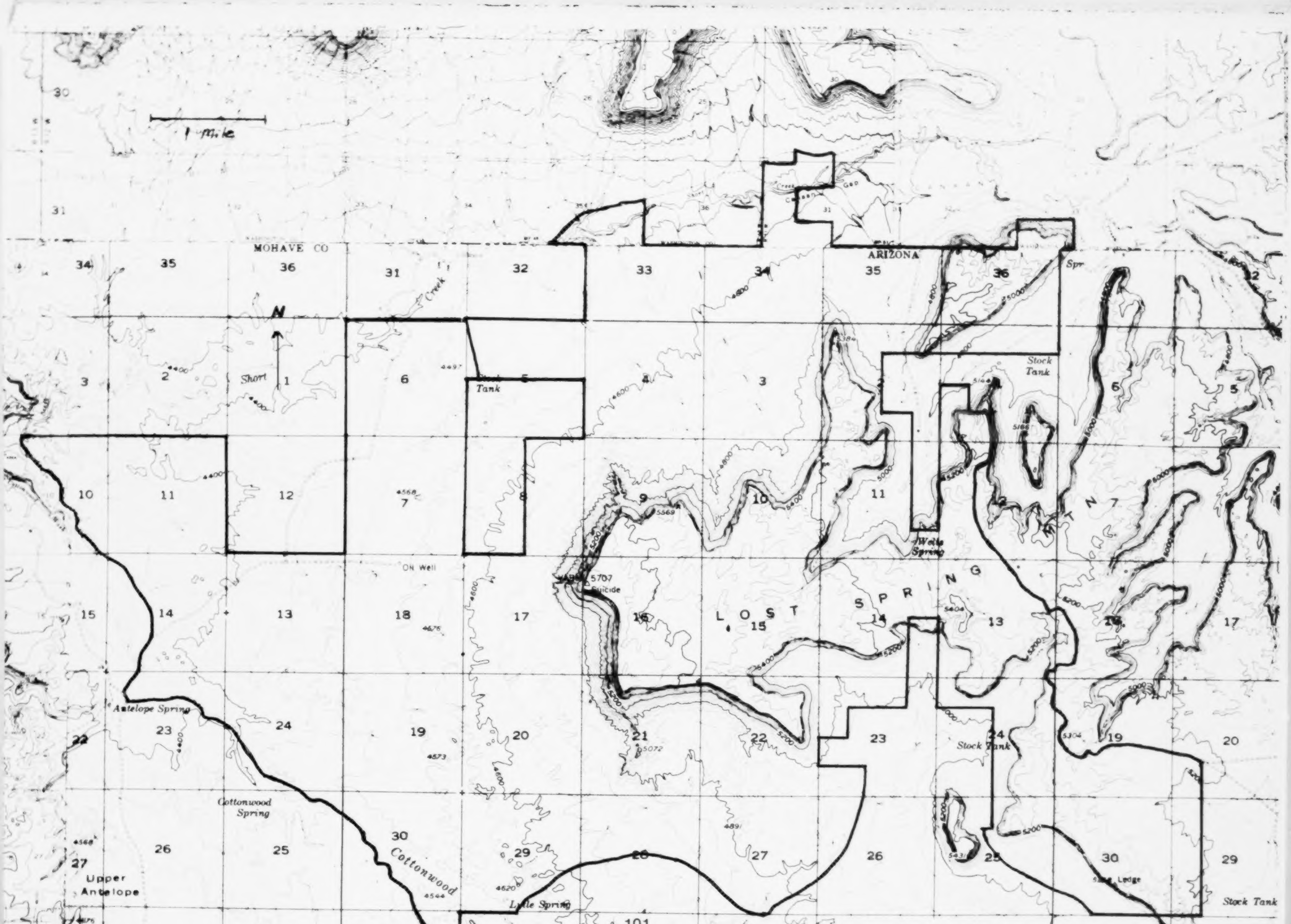
More detailed descriptions of the comments and State Directors' decisions are available in the permanent documentation files of these unit.

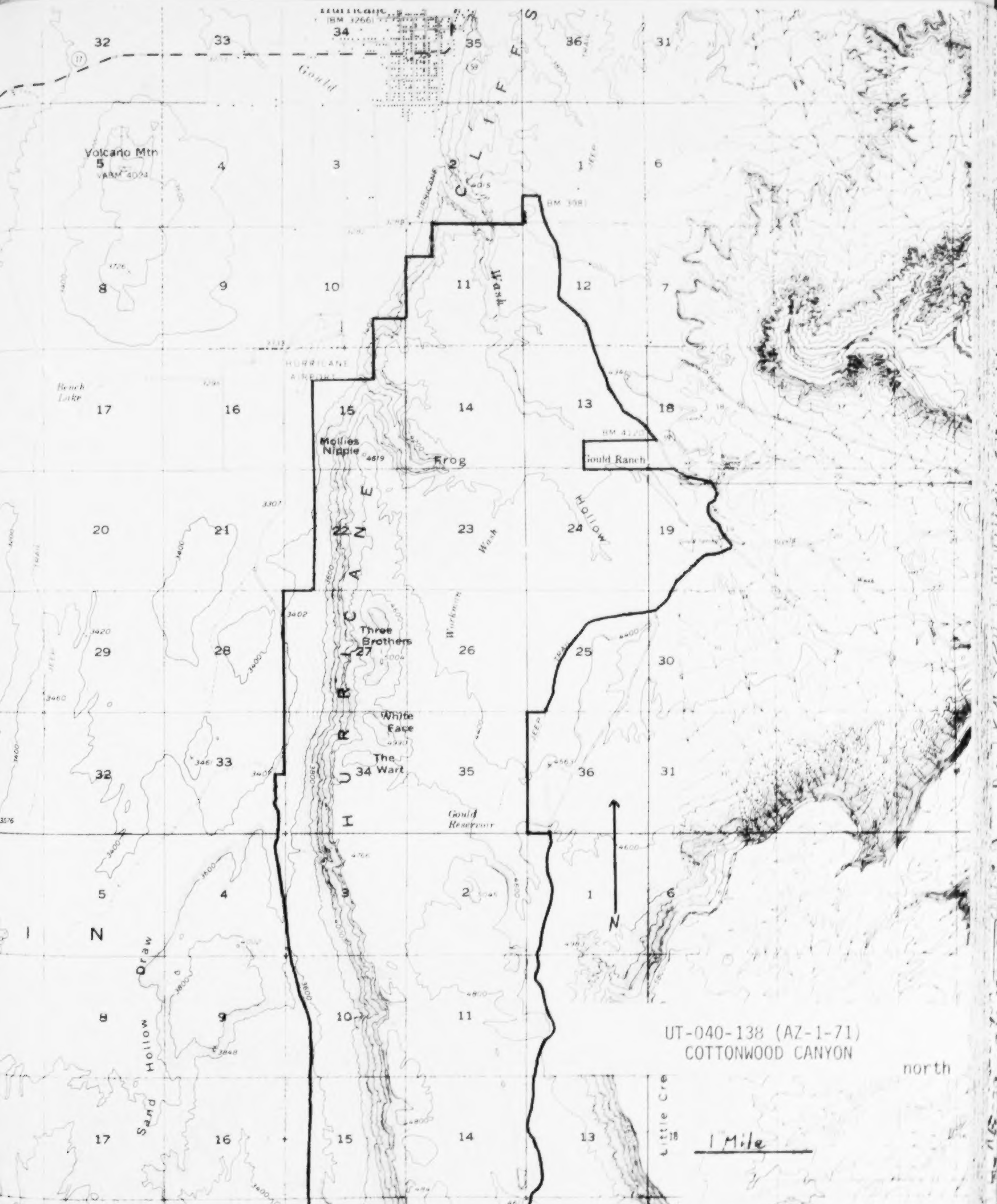


20
21
22
23
23
24
29
28
WASH
27
26
26
25
30
29
Beehive Dome
White Dome
Herd House
32
33
34
35
35
36
31
32
WASHINGTON CO
WASHINGTON CO
N
UT-040-134 (AZ-1-73)
QUAIL DRAW
1 mile
98

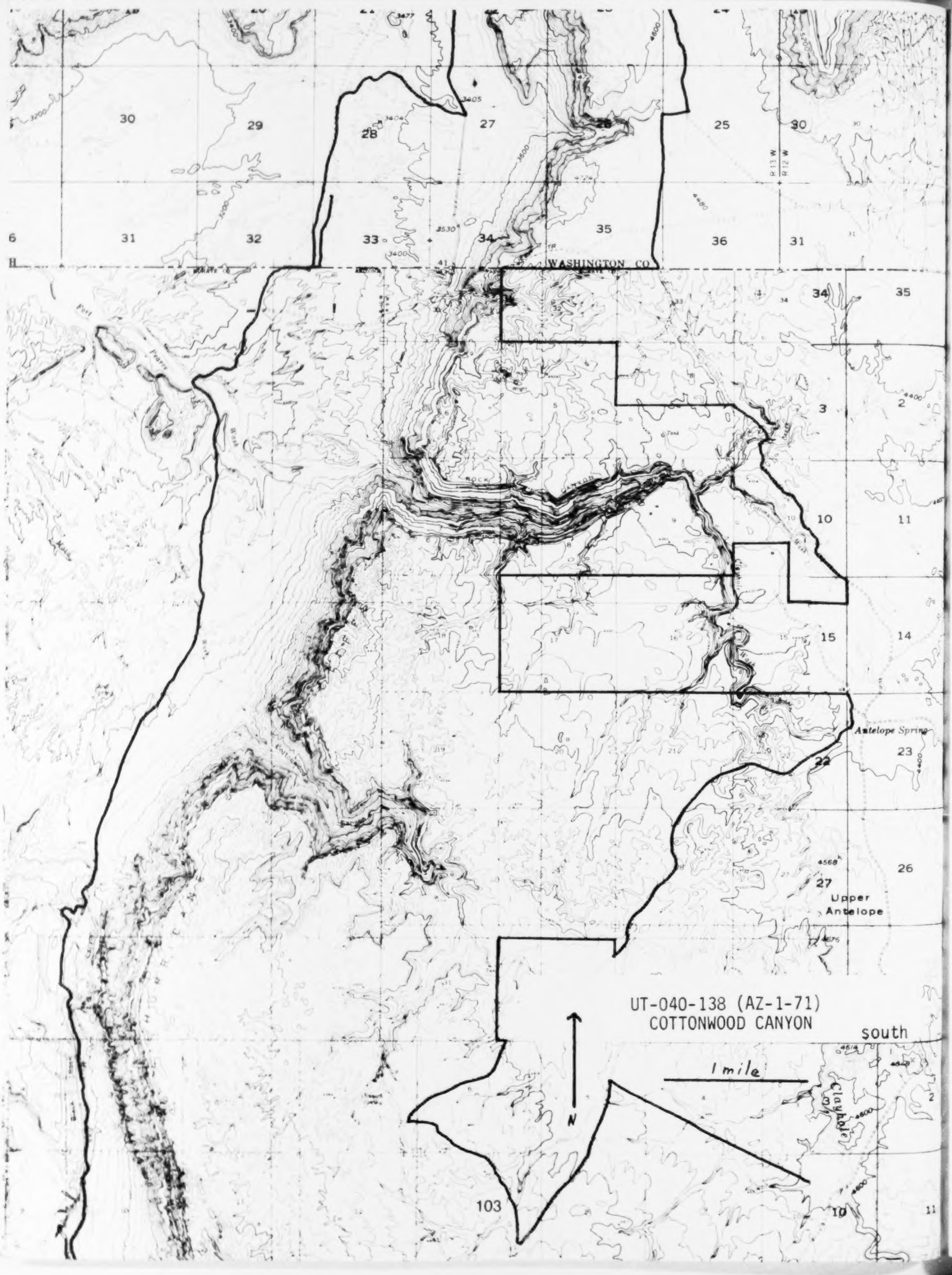

UT-040-135 (AZ-1-72)
EAST MESA
north
1 mile
N
WARNER RIDGE
WARNER
MOUNTAIN
Sand Dunes
Sand Hollow Draw
Warner Valley Spring
Beehive Dome
Herd House
Fort Pierce Spr
(Ruins)
Fort Pierce Wash
WASHINGTON CO
UTAH
LANDING FIELD
99

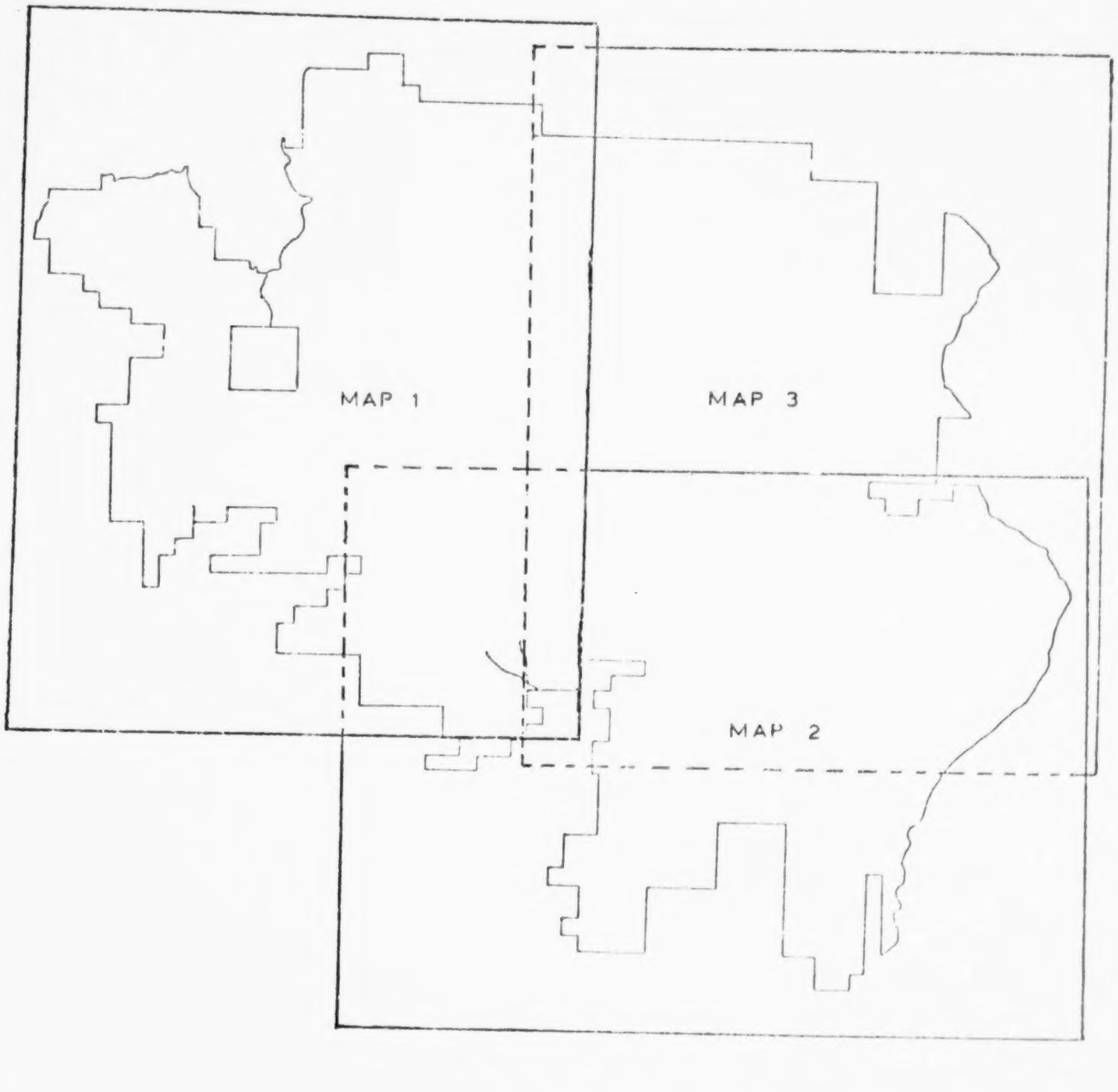

UT-040-135 (AZ-1-72)
EAST MESA
south
N
1 mile


1 mile
MOHAVE CO
ARIZONA
N
Short
Creek
Tank
Stock Tank
Spr
Wells Spring
ON Well
5707
Suicide
LOST SPRING
MTN
Antelope Spring
Cottonwood Spring
Cottonwood
Upper Antelope
Little Spring
Ledge
Wash
UT-040-137
AZ-010-069
CANAAN GAP



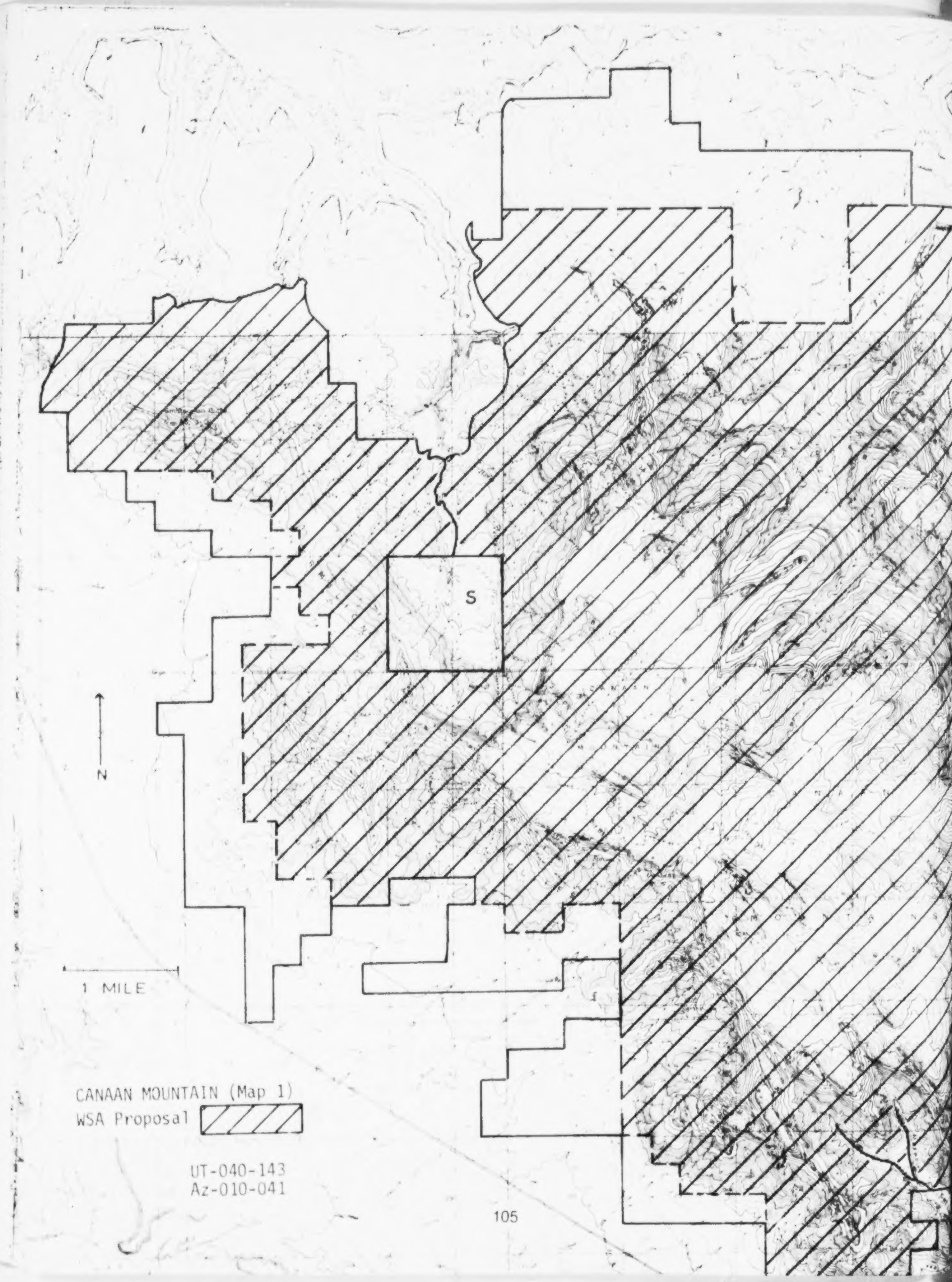
UT-040-138 (AZ-1-71)
COTTONWOOD CANYON

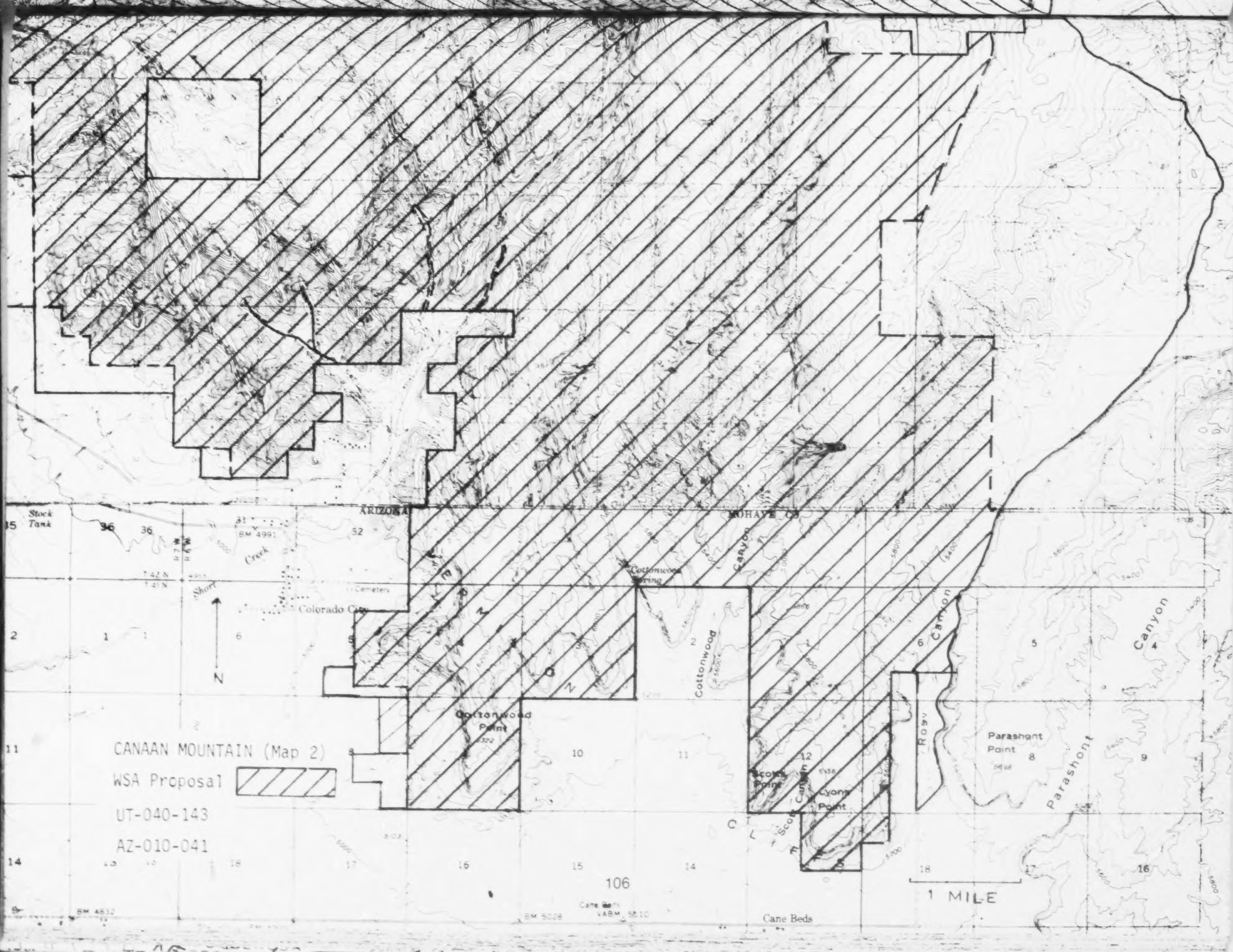

UT-040-138 (AZ-1-71)
COTTONWOOD CANYON
south
1 mile
N
WASHINGTON CO
Antelope Spring
Upper Antelope
Clayhole
ROCK CANYON
103

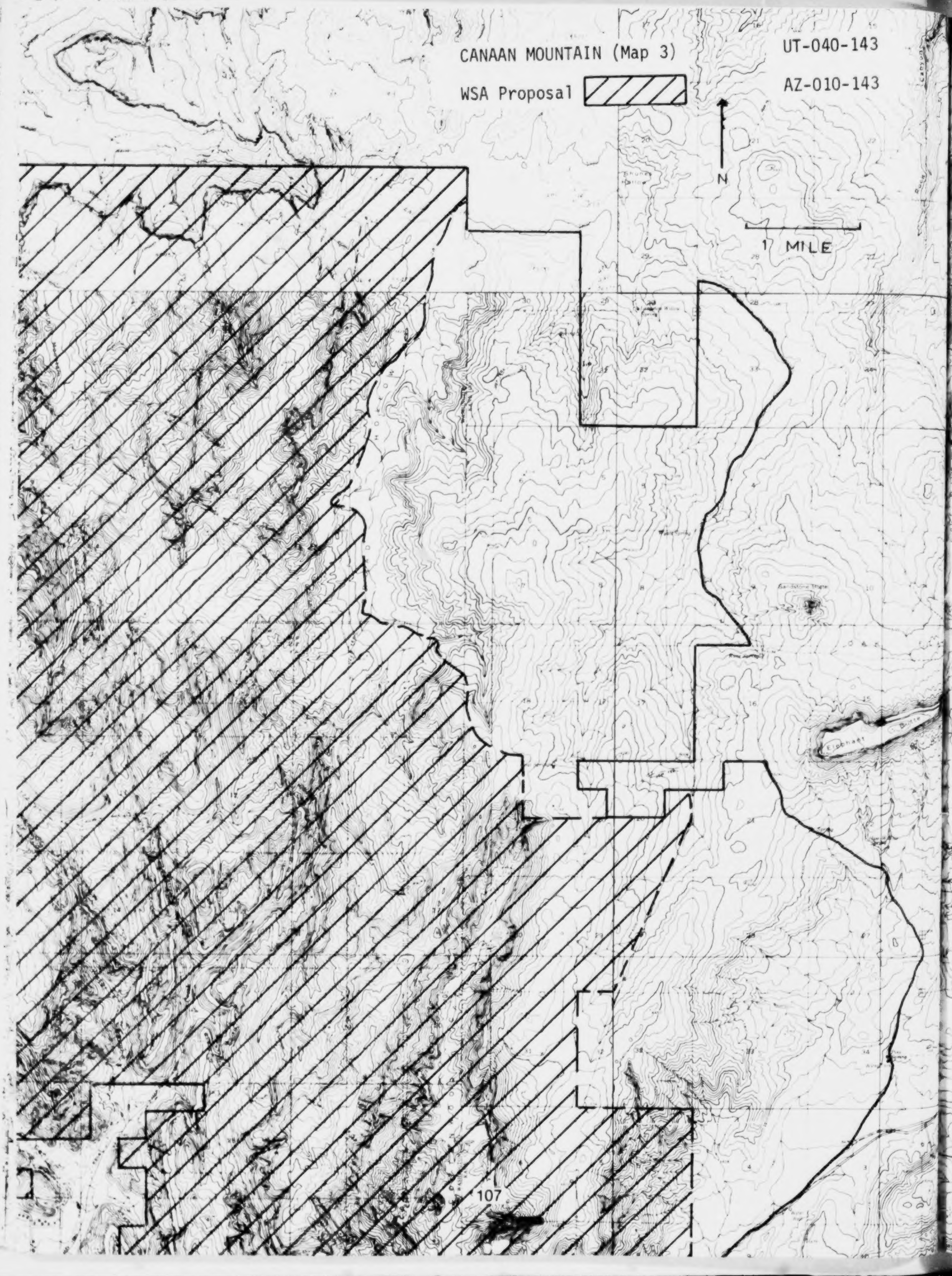


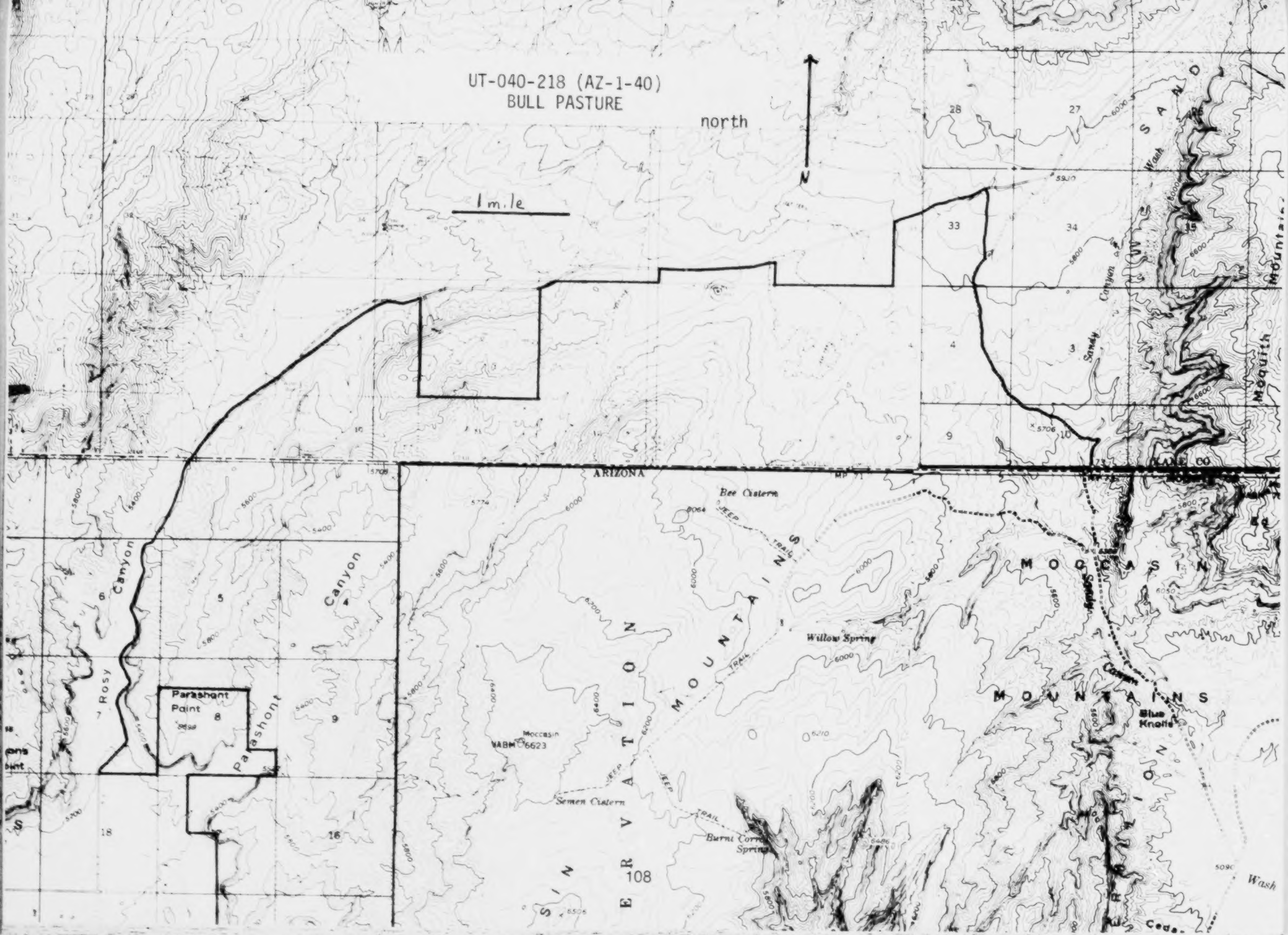
UT-040-143
AZ-010-041

MAP KEY

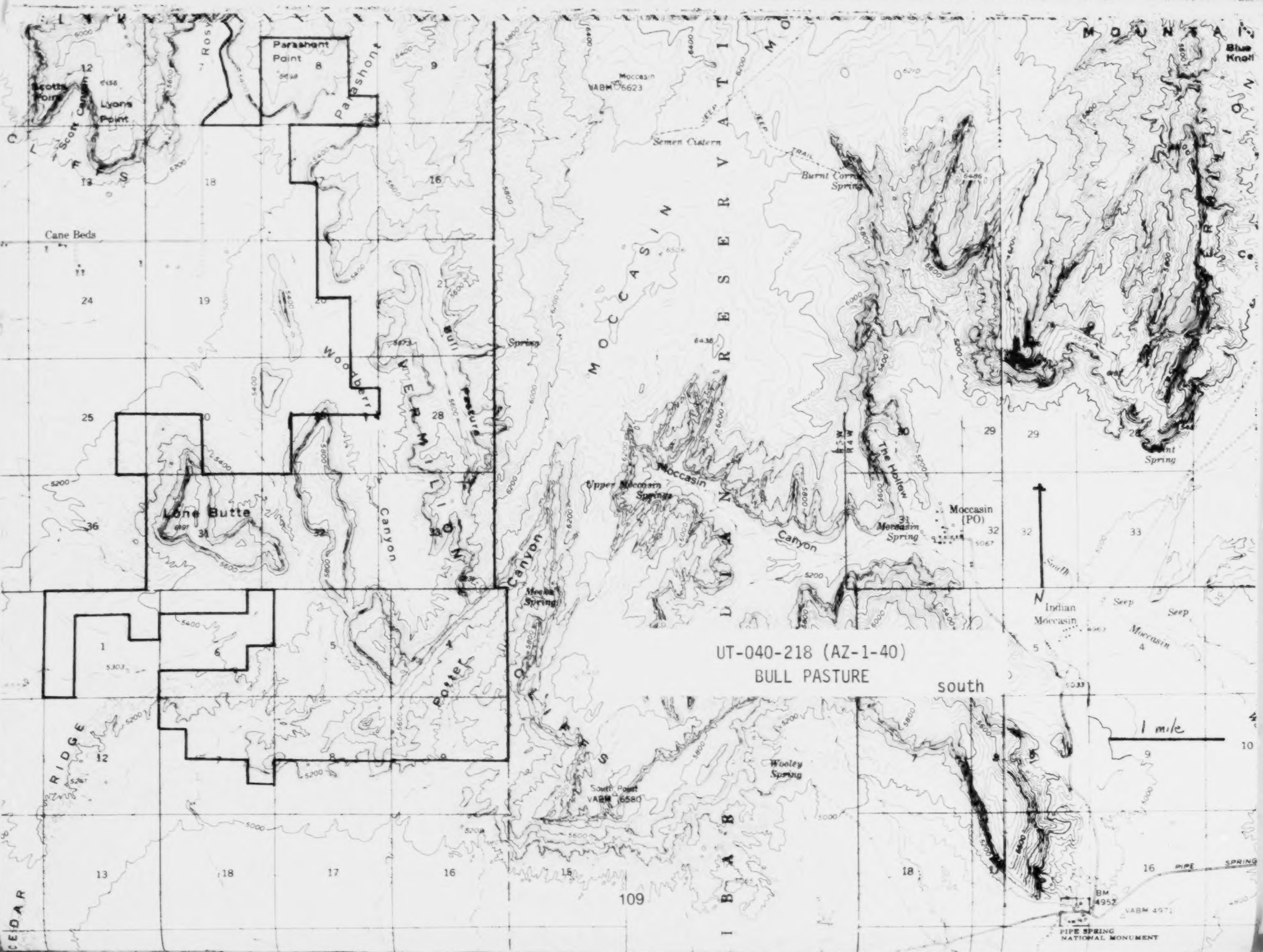

S
N
1 MILE
CANAAN MOUNTAIN (Map 1)
WSA Proposal
UT-040-143
Az-010-041

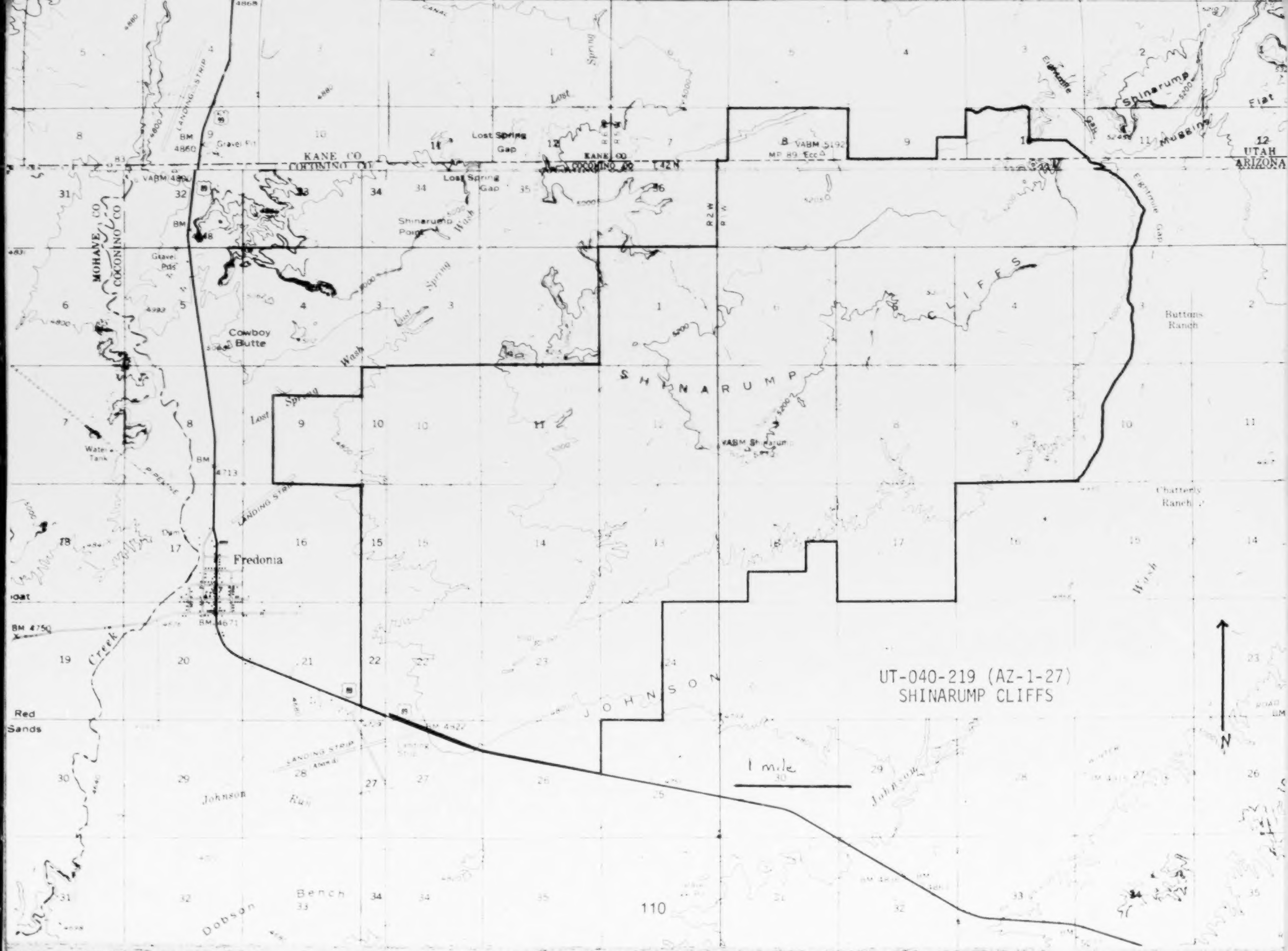

CANAAN MOUNTAIN (Map 2)
WSA Proposal
UT-040-143
AZ-010-041
1 MILE
N
ARIZONA
MOHAVE CO
Stock Tank
Short Creek
Colorado City
Cemetery
Cottonwood Spring
Cottonwood Canyon
Cottonwood Point
Canyon
Rosy Canyon
Parashont Point
Parashont Canyon
Scott Point
Lyons Point
Cane Beds
BM 4991
BM 4832
BM 5028
VABM 5810

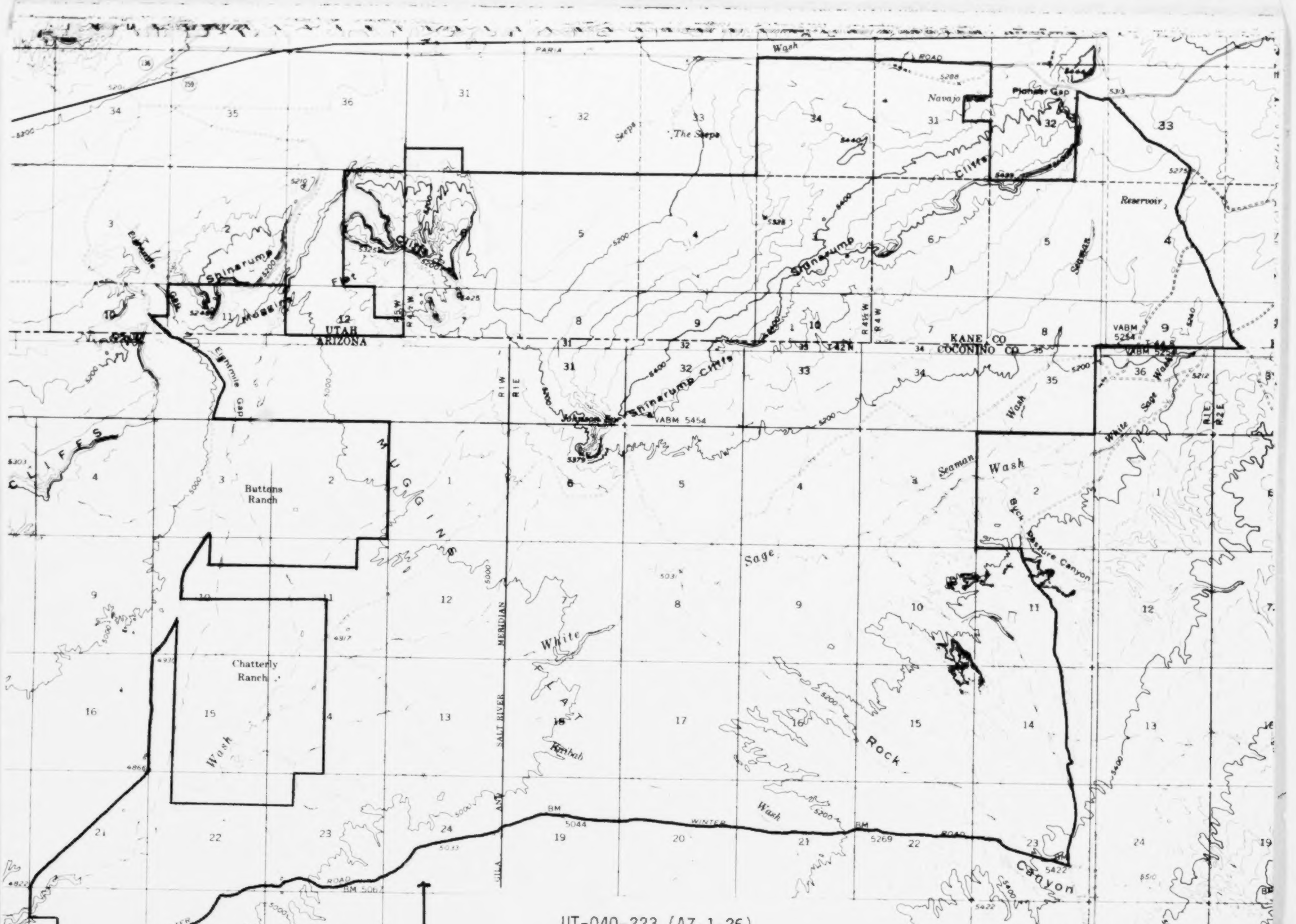

CANAAN MOUNTAIN (Map 3)
WSA Proposal
UT-040-143
AZ-010-143
N
1 MILE



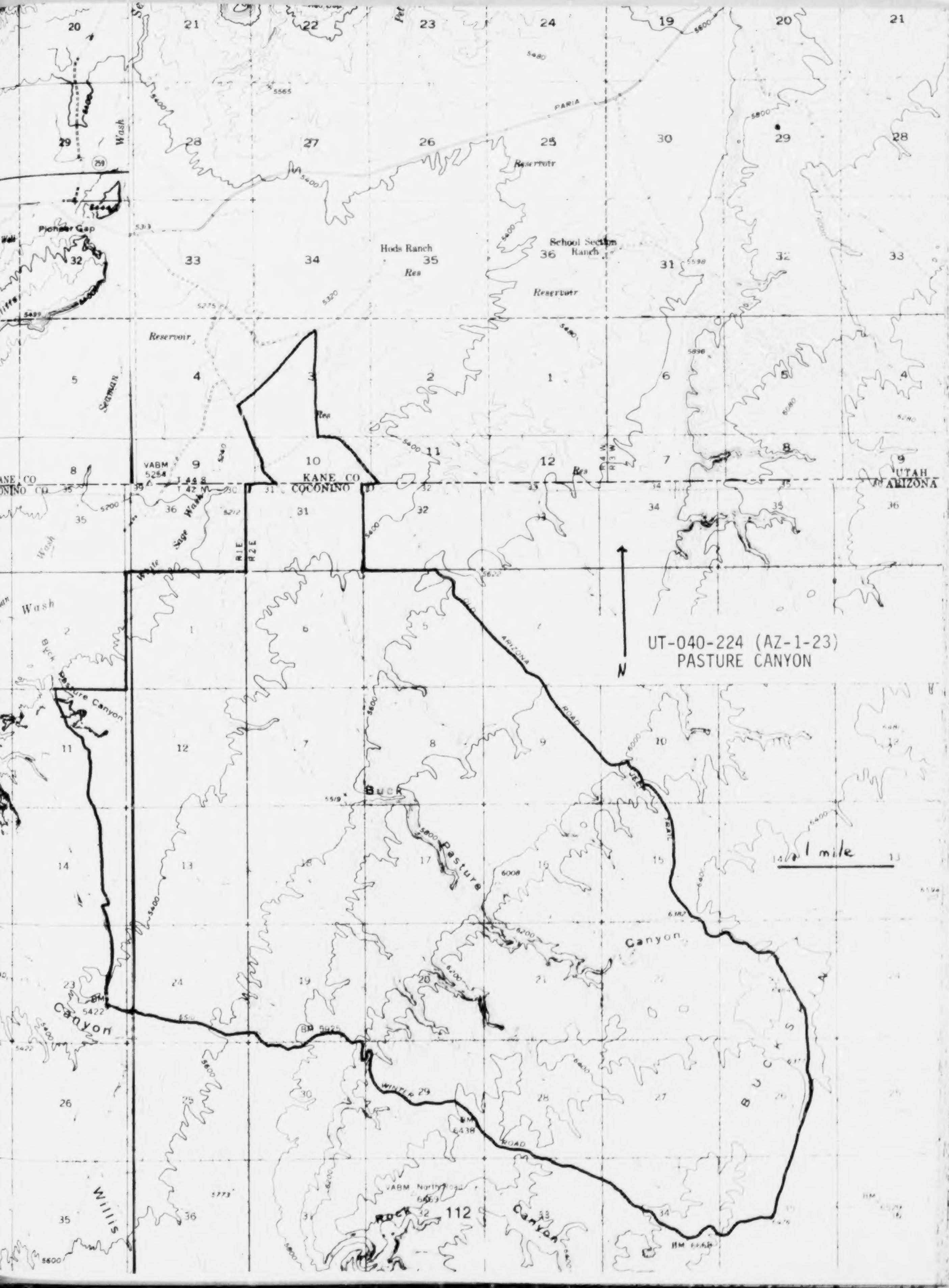
UT-040-218 (AZ-1-40)
BULL PASTURE
north
N
1 mile
ARIZONA
Bee Cistern
Willow Spring
MOCCASIN
MOUNTAINS
Blue Knolls
Moccasin
6623
Semen Cistern
Burnt Corral Spring
Parashont Point
Parashont
Rosy Canyon
Canyon
Sandy Canyon
Moquith Mountain
JEEP TRAIL
108

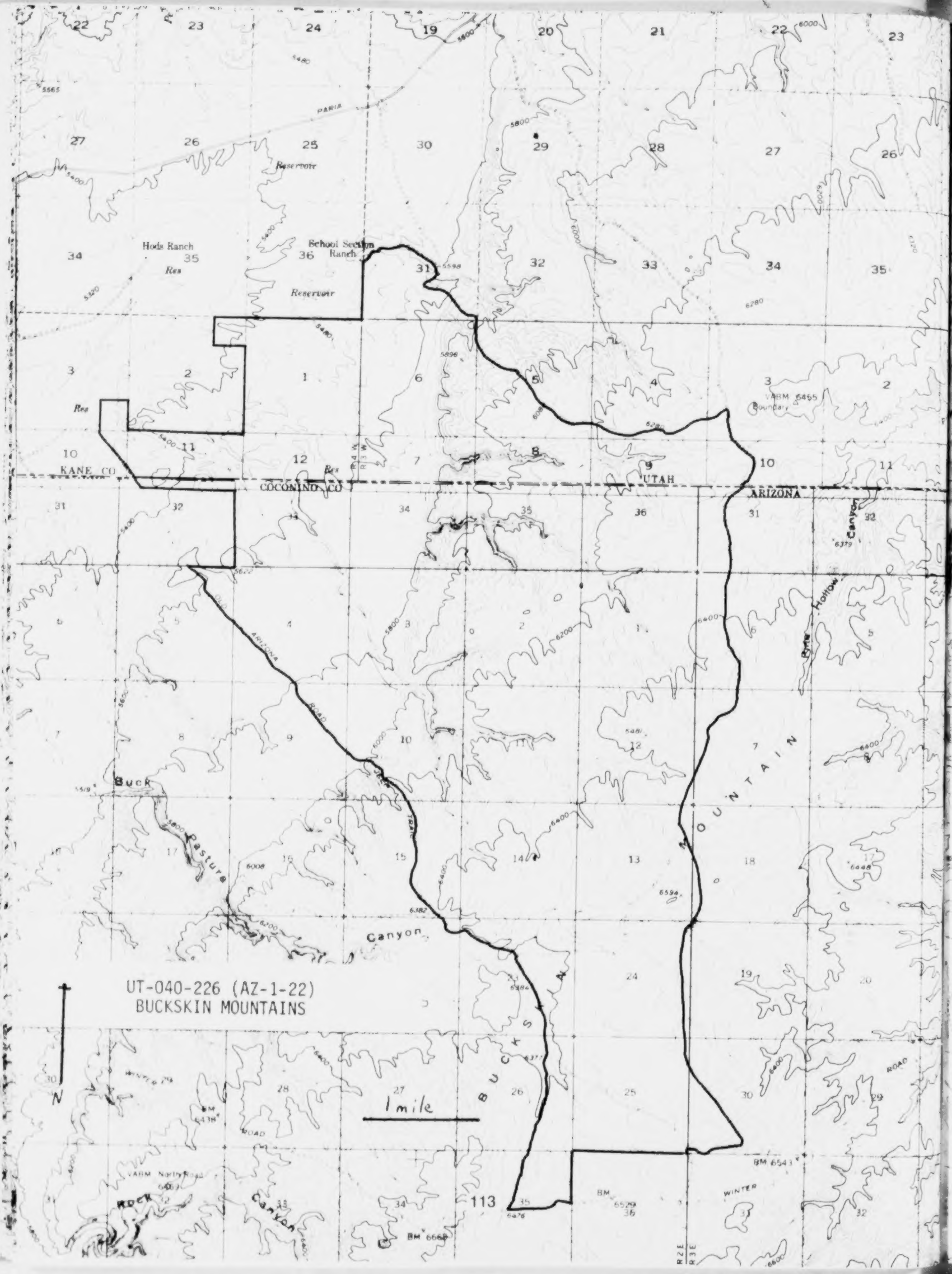

UT-040-218 (AZ-1-40)
BULL PASTURE
south
1 mile
N
MOCCASIN INDIAN RESERVATION
MOUNTAIN
VERMILION
CLIFFS
Parashont Point
Parashont
Scotts Point
Lyons Point
Scott Canyon
Rosy
Cane Beds
Lone Butte
Woodberry
Canyon
Bull Pasture
Spring
Potter
Canyon
Moccasin
Semen Cistern
Burnt Corral Spring
JEEP TRAIL
Upper Moccasin Springs
Moccasin Canyon
The Hollow
Moccasin (PO)
Moccasin Spring
Indian Moccasin
South Seep
Seep
Moccasin
Wooley Spring
South Point
Blue Knoll
PIPE SPRING NATIONAL MONUMENT
PIPE SPRING
CEDAR RIDGE

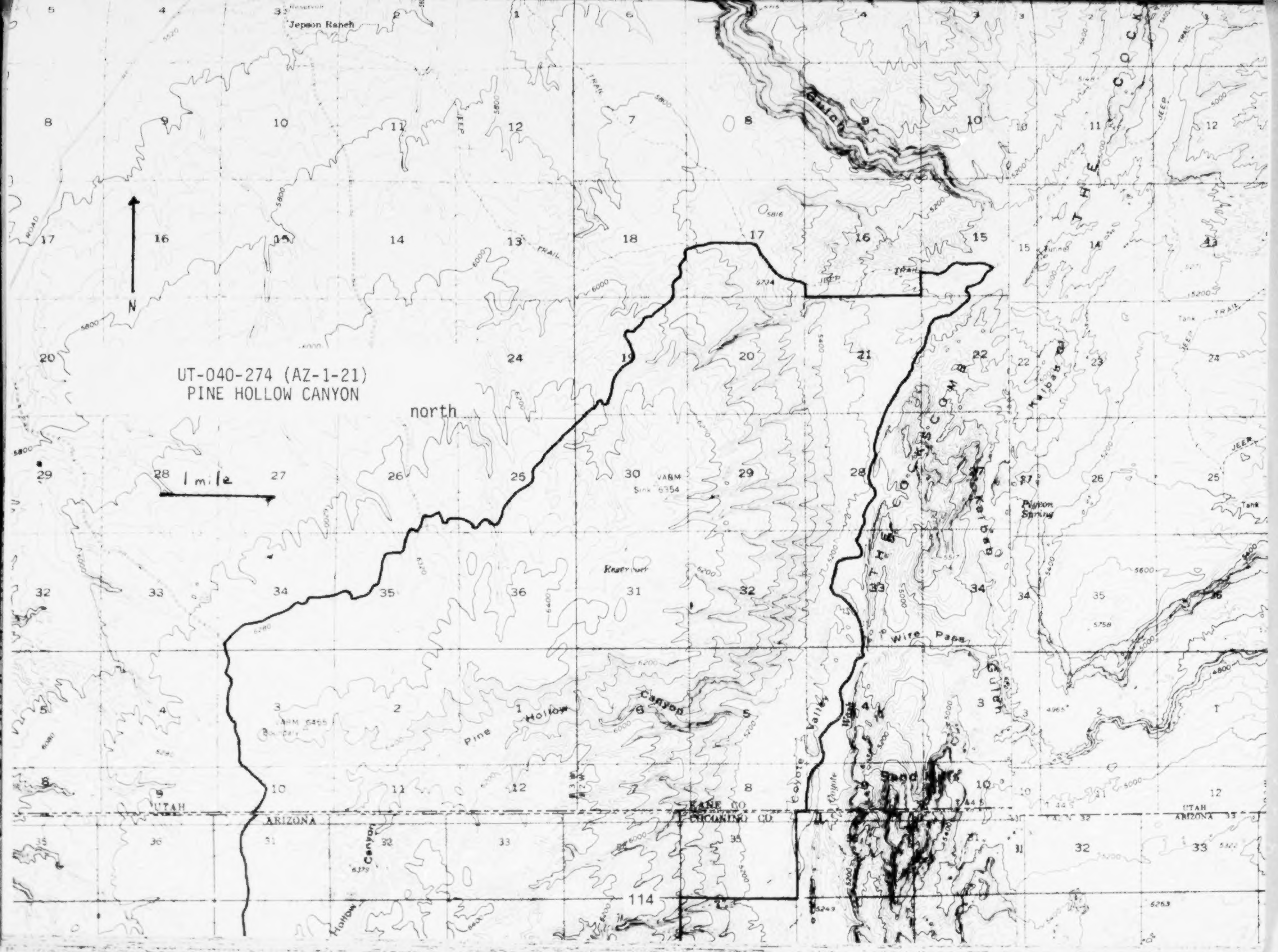

UT-040-219 (AZ-1-27)
SHINARUMP CLIFFS
N
1 mile
SHINARUMP
CLIFFS
JOHNSON
Fredonia
Cowboy Butte
Shinarump Point
Lost Spring Gap
Lost Spring Wash
KANE CO
COCONINO CO
MOHAVE CO
UTAH
ARIZONA
Buttons Ranch
Chatterly Ranch
Johnson Run
Dobson
Bench
Red Sands
Water Tank
Gravel Pit
Gravel Pits
Landing Strip
Creek
Wash
Eightmile Gap
Flat
VABM 5192
R2W
R1W
T42N

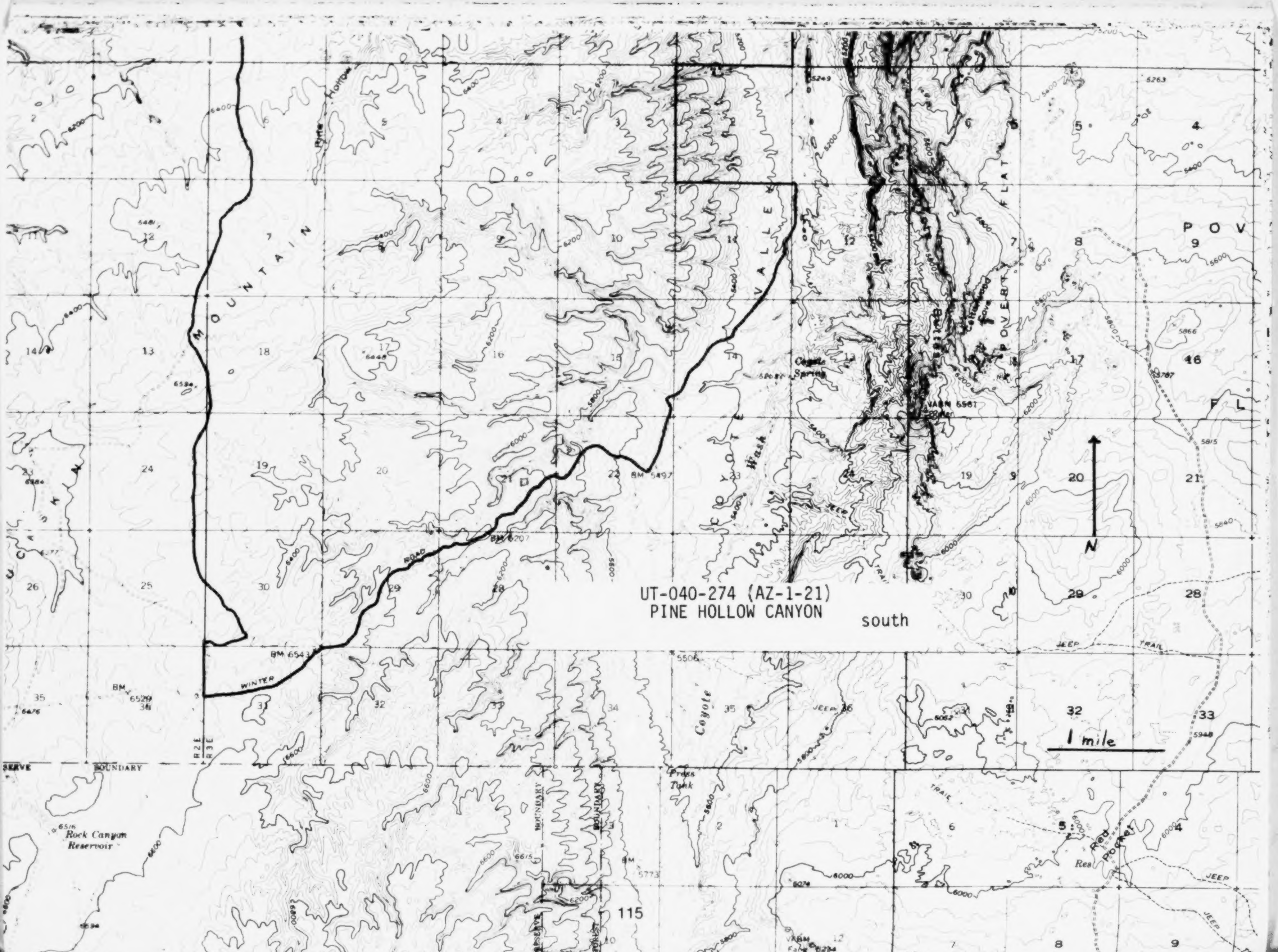


UT-040-223 (AZ-1-26)
MUGGINS FLAT


UT-040-224 (AZ-1-23)
PASTURE CANYON
N
1 mile
KANE CO
COCONINO
UTAH
ARIZONA
Pioneer Gap
Hods Ranch
School Section Ranch
Reservoir
Res
PARIA
Seaman
Wash
White Sage Wash
R1E
R2E
R4W
R3W
VABM 5254
Pasture Canyon
Buck Pasture Canyon
ARIZONA ROAD
WINTER ROAD
BUCKS
Canyon
Willis
Rock
BM 5422
BM 5925
BM 6438
VABM North Road 6463
112


UT-040-226 (AZ-1-22)
BUCKSKIN MOUNTAINS
1 mile
N
Hods Ranch
School Section Ranch
Reservoir
KANE CO
COCONINO CO
UTAH
ARIZONA
OLD ARIZONA ROAD
Buck Pasture Canyon
BUCKSKIN MOUNTAIN
Rock Canyon
113


UT-040-274 (AZ-1-21)
PINE HOLLOW CANYON
north
1 mile
N
Jepson Ranch
Gulch
THE COCKSCOMB
Kaibab
Pinyon Spring
Wire Pass
Coyote Valley
Pine Hollow Canyon
Sand Hills
Reservoir
UTAH
ARIZONA
KANE CO.
COCONINO CO.
114


UT-040-274 (AZ-1-21)
PINE HOLLOW CANYON
south
1 mile
N
MOUNTAIN
VALLEY
COYOTE
Wash
POVERTY FLAT
Coyote Spring
Coyote
WINTER
ROAD
Press Tank
Rock Canyon Reservoir
BOUNDARY
JEEP TRAIL
Red Pocket

pages tightly bound

UNIT NO.: UT-040-142 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: CRATER HILL UNIT ACREAGE: 2,149

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit curves around Crater Hill (located within Zion National Park) from the northwest to the southeast. It consists of two lava plains and is located adjacent to Zion National Park, approximately six miles east of Springdale, Utah.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 2,149 acres of public land. The unit is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally identified as having wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. The unit curves around some privately owned land. It is contiguous with Zion National Park at two points south and west of Crater Hill. Crater Hill itself is located within the park. The unit consists almost entirely of two lava plains which are separated by slight elevational differences. The area is heavily scarred by vehicle ways. An electrical transmission line also crosses the unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The area does not afford an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The opportunity for solitude is almost nonexistent on this sparsely vegetated level plain.

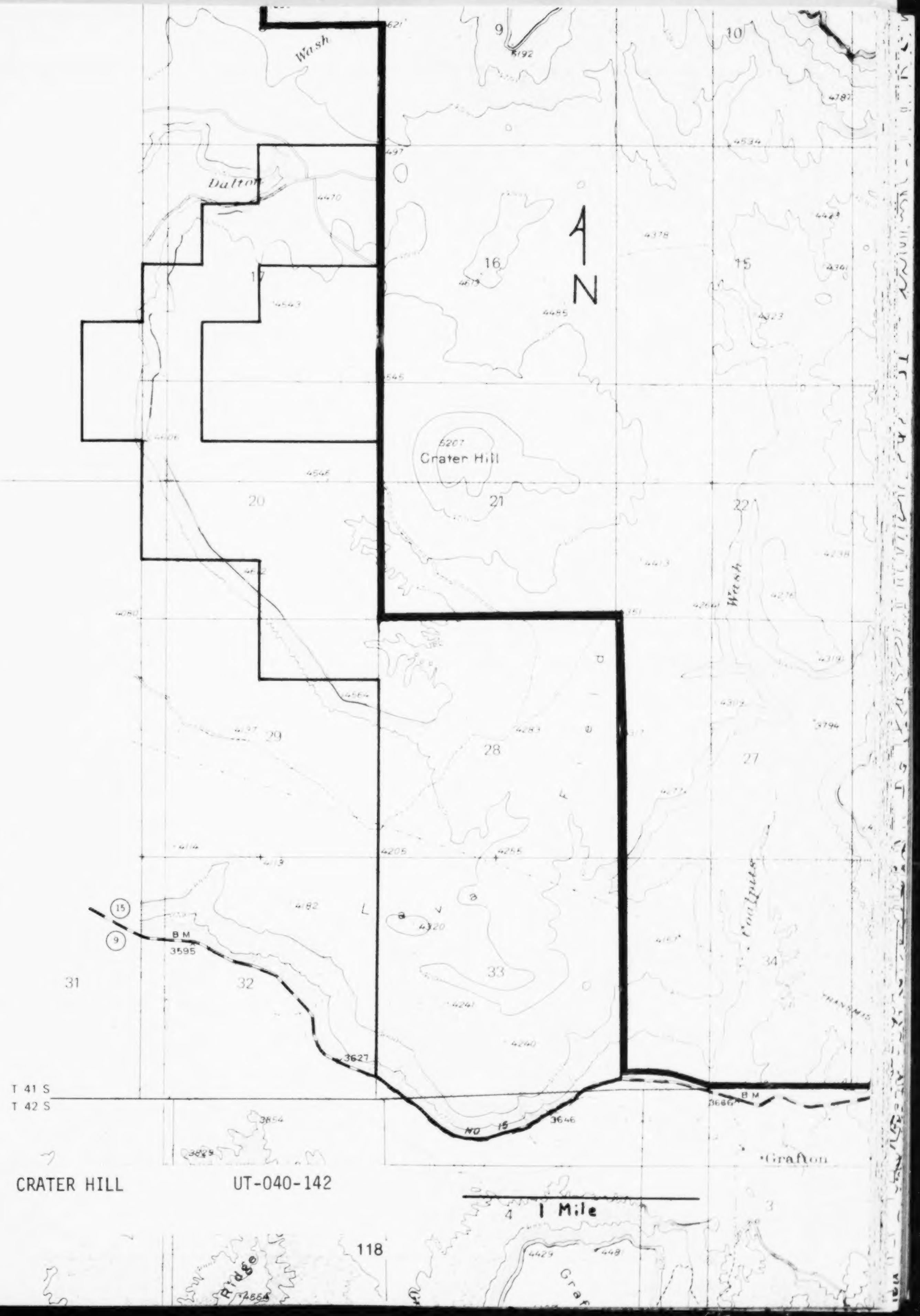
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The only recreational opportunity here is walking or horseback riding. Neither opportunity would be outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None known.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Only one comment was received on the unit. The comment contained no information, but merely expressed agreement with the inventory findings that the unit possessed neither the outstanding opportunity for solitude nor the outstanding opportunity for primitive or unconfined recreation, and therefore does not meet the criteria to become a WSA.

4. DECISION: The unit is notidentified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No new information was provided concerning wilderness characteristics for the area and there is no disagreement with the Intensive Inventory finding that the unit does not qualify for WSA status.



CRATER HILL UT-040-142

UNIT NUMBER: UT-040-144 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: SHUNES HOLLOW UNIT ACREAGE: 1,220

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in Kane County and is adjacent to the southeastern section of Zion National Park.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 1,220 acres of public land. The unit is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally identified as having wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit contains 2.7 miles of ways. These ways are jeep trails that have not been constructed or maintained. One small line shack and a small section of fence are also present in the unit. These ways, fence, and cabin are not substantially noticeable. The unit possesses the naturalness characteristic.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available in the unit. The topography is either flat or contains gently rolling hills. Small sand dunes, slickrock knolls, and small sagebrush flats are present. The vegetation is predominately an open pinyon-juniper forest with a scattering of ponderosa pines. Although the vegetation and terrain offer some opportunities for solitude, these opportunities could not be considered outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Outstanding opportunities to experience primitive and unconfined recreation are not available. The unit does not possess any features considered outstanding for sightseeing or photography. An opportunity for hiking or backpacking is available. However, even when considered in conjunction with the adjacent national park lands, this opportunity is not of an outstanding quality.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: No important supplemental values have been identified.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments were received on this unit which address the wilderness criteria. One comment agrees with the determination that the unit possesses the naturalness characteristic. Two comments provide information on developments within the unit but do not make a naturalness recommendation. Three comments agree with the outstanding solitude determination in the Summary Narrative. One comment agrees and one disagrees with the outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation determination in the Summary Narrative.

4. DECISION: The unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The comments which discuss developments in the unit do not provide information on their location. Therefore, it was not possible to determine if the comments were providing information additional to that documented in the intensive inventory.

The two comments on the solitude determination confuse naturalness and solitude. They provide no new information. No comments were received which disagree with the determination that the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude.

One comment disagrees with the Summary Narrative determination. The comment recognizes that the unit lacks outstanding opportunities on its own account; however, it argues that it should be a WSA because it helps "round out" the Zion National Park boundary. The Summary Narrative states that the unit lacks outstanding opportunities when considered alone or in conjunction with the Zion Park wilderness proposal. Rounding out of the park boundary is not related to wilderness characteristics. The comment does not provide a basis for changing the Summary Narrative determination.

SHUNES HOLLOW UT-040-144

UNIT NO.: UT-040-145 WSA ACREAGE: 1,750

UNIT NAME: ORDERVILLE CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 5,080

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Kane County and adjacent to the northeast border of Zion National Park's Wilderness Proposal. The unit is between Interstate 15 and Highway 89, about 13 miles southeast of Kanarraville and 13 miles northwest of Mt. Carmel.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 5,080 acres of public lands and encloses 80 acres of private land.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the Orderville Canyon Unit has been substantially impacted by man. To the north of Orderville Canyon, the cumulative impacts of timber harvest, two earthern reservoirs, and timber hauling roads intrude upon naturalness. To the south of Orderville Canyon, the cumulative impacts of one maintained road, numerous timber hauling roads, impacts of timber harvest, a cabin, fences, and an earthen reservoir impact naturalness. The center of the unit, below the rim of Orderville Canyon and the rough breaks at the heads of the major side canyons, notably Birch, Englestead, Walker and Esplin Canyons are natural. The impacts of the numerous imprints on the benches are completely foreign to the naturalness of the canyon bottoms. The canyons retain their primeval character.

Within the unit boundary 1,750 acres are considered to possess naturalness. The portion of the unit possessing naturalness is contiguous to the Zion National Park wilderness proposal and meets the size criteria exception in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Within the portion of the unit possessing naturalness, the opportunity to experience solitude is inherently available in the deeply entrenched Orderville Canyon system. The portion of the canyon system on public lands contains 7.8 miles of canyons. An additional 9.2 miles of hiking is available in Zion National Park. The canyon joins the North Fork of the Virgin River in the Narrows section of the park. The canyons are very narrow, serpentine, and moderately vegetated with oak brush, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and white fir. The opportunity for individuals to seek out and experience solitude is outstanding because of the natural screening and the proximity to Zion National Park.

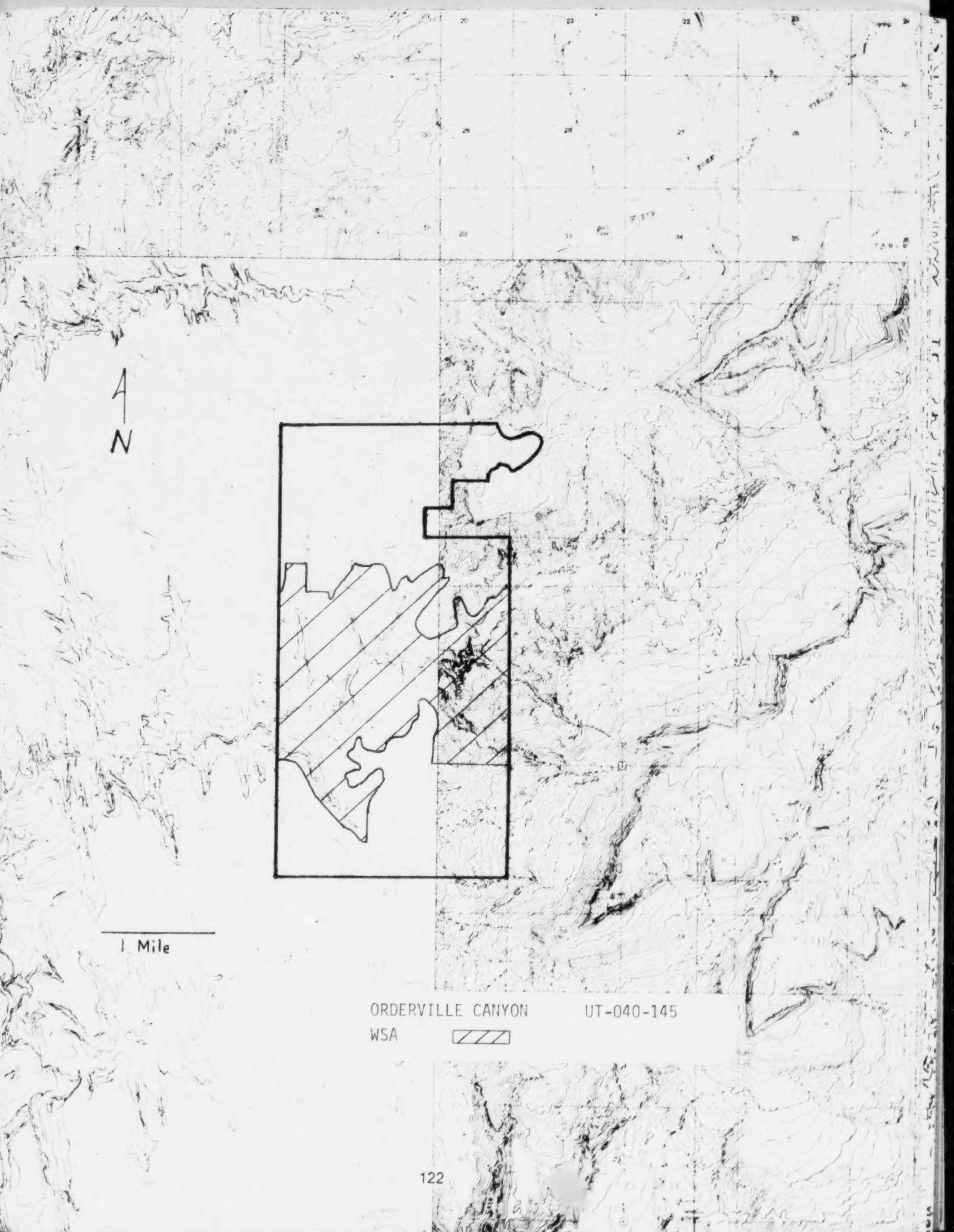
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for many types of primitive and unconfined recreation such as backpacking, birdwatching, rock climbing, and sightseeing. The terrain in the canyon system is in very steep topography and is boulders and dead fall timber. The canyon presently provides access to the Virgin River Canyons system in Zion National Park. The canyon is most popular for day and overnight hiking from the County maintained road crossing Orderville Canyon to the Narrows Trail Head in Zion National Park.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The most important supplemental value of Orderville Canyon is the scenery. The scenery is similar to the scenery in Zion National Park. The cliffs, deeply entrenched canyons, presence of water, and vegetation all account for the spectacular views. The scenery received the highest scenic value under the BLM Visual Resource Management System. Other supplemental values include zoological and scientific values. The publicized Zion snail (Physazionis) is endemic to the hanging gardens of Zion Canyon and Orderville Canyon. Important raptor species observed in the canyon include the peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, and the spotted owl.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Fourteen comments containing information relative to wilderness characteristics in the unit were received. Nine comments stated that approximately 1,480 acres within the unit possess the naturalness characteristic. Two comments stated that the boundary had been incorrectly drawn omitting a portion of the unit that possesses naturalness. One comment stated that the entire unit lacks naturalness. Twelve comments stated that outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation are present in the unit while one comment stated that the unit lacks the solitude characteristic.

4. DECISION: 1,750 acres of this unit are identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Information contained in the comments basically supported the conclusions of the Summary Narratives on Wilderness Characteristics. Two comments were correct in identifying small additional areas possessing naturalness. Through adjusting the boundary from a strict legal description to more accurately reflect the naturalness characteristic, about 270 acres are added to the WSA, resulting in a total area of 1,750 acres within the WSA. The one comment disagreeing with the proposal provided little specific information in addition to that contained in the Summary Narrative. The comment did point out two 40-acre parcels of private land within the inventory unit which were not previously recognized. These two parcels are not located within the WSA, however. The 1,750-acre portion of the unit qualifies for wilderness study on the basis of the presence of wilderness characteristics in that area.


N
1 Mile
ORDERVILLE CANYON UT-040-145
WSA

UNIT NUMBER: UT-040-146 WSA ACREAGE: 3,320

UNIT NAME: DEEP CREEK UNIT ACREAGE: 7,070

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Washington County and is adjacent to Zion National Park. The unit is east of Interstate 15 on the Kolob Terrace and located 10 miles southeast of Kanarraville.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 7,070 acres of public land and encloses 200 acres of private land. The size of the area possessing wilderness characteristics is 3,320 acres.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. One way (1.6 miles) to private lands in the southeast portion of this unit is considered substantially noticeable. Another way near Volcano Knoll leading to private land is considered substantially noticeable. This road traverses the unit in Section 14 and divides the unit. The portion of the unit north of Volcano Knoll contains 3,750 acres. Since this area does not contain sufficient lands for review as noted in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook, the remainder of this northern portion is not considered. The portion of the unit south of Volcano Knoll is natural. Within the unit boundary, 3,320 acres are considered to possess naturalness. The remaining unit meets the size criteria exception outlined in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Within the portion of the unit meeting the naturalness criteria, the opportunity to experience solitude is inherently available in the deeply entrenched Deep Creek, North Fork, and Kolob Canyons. The thickly vegetated, serpentine canyon offers topographic and vegetation screening. The flowing water in the narrow canyon of Deep Creek adds to the feeling of solitude. When combined with the opportunities in the adjacent National Park, the opportunity to seek out and experience solitude is considered outstanding.

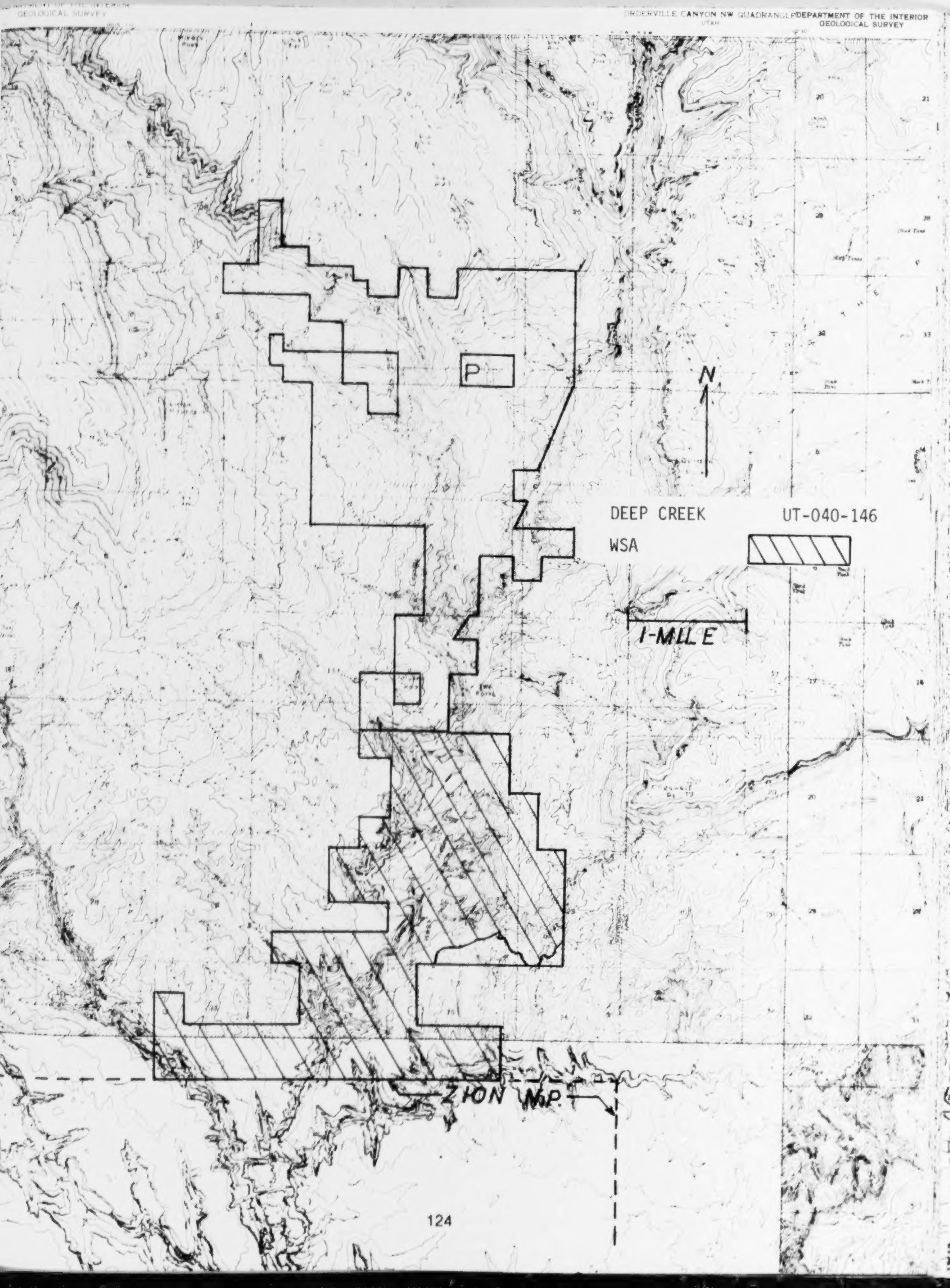
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The canyon bottoms of the North Fork, Deep Creek, and Kolob Creek offer primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities such as backpacking, bird watching, photography, and sightseeing. Deep Creek often flows from wall to wall in the canyon bottom and excludes any motorized activity. The Deep Creek and North Fork provide access to the Zion Narrows canyon system. The administration of the canyon system is divided between National Park Service, BLM, and private individuals. The hiking experience in this unit represents 5.2 miles of a possible 18-mile hike to the "Zion Narrows" trail head. An additional 0.63 mile on the North Fork of the Virgin River is also contained in this unit. When combined with the primitive unconfined recreation experience of the adjacent canyon system, the experience within the Deep Creek unit is considered outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: This unit contains canyons which are natural extensions of the Zion National Park and are of similar topography. The unit received the highest values using the BLM Visual Resource Management rating system. The deep canyons and the abundance of water provide a wide variety of ecological zones and with unique flora and fauna. An important supplemental value is the access this canyon system provides to Zion National Park's Zion Narrows Trail.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Twelve comments with information relating to wilderness characteristics were submitted for this unit. Eleven comments stated that the unit possesses the naturalness characteristic. Three of those comments stated that the entire unit has naturalness. Ten comments stated that both outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation exist in the unit. There were no comments received stating that any of the wilderness characteristics are not present in the unit.

4. DECISION: 3,320 acres of this unit are identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Ten of the 12 comments supported the findings of the existence of the outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within 33,200 acres. All the comments agreed that the recommended 3,320 acres were natural with three comments indicating the entire unit was natural. Field verification of the way near Volcano Knoll confirmed the impact of the way on naturalness, dividing the unit. The northern half of the unit does not contain sufficient lands for further review as noted in the WIH.



ORDERVILLE CANYON NW QUADRANGLE
UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
P
N
DEEP CREEK
WSA
UT-040-146
1-MILE
ZION N.P.

UNIT NO.: UT-040-147 WSA ACREAGE: 804

UNIT NAME: RED BUTTE UNIT ACREAGE: 804

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit contains Red Butte and a portion of the mesa on which it is located. It is south of the Kolob section of Zion National Park, approximately eleven miles north of Virgin, Utah.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 804 acres of public land. The unit is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit is natural. No human imprints have been identified.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The unit's isolation, difficulty of access, and proximity to the Zion National Park Wilderness Proposal contributes outstanding opportunities for solitude. The mesa surrounding the butte is also heavily vegetated and screens hikers from outside intrusions and each other.

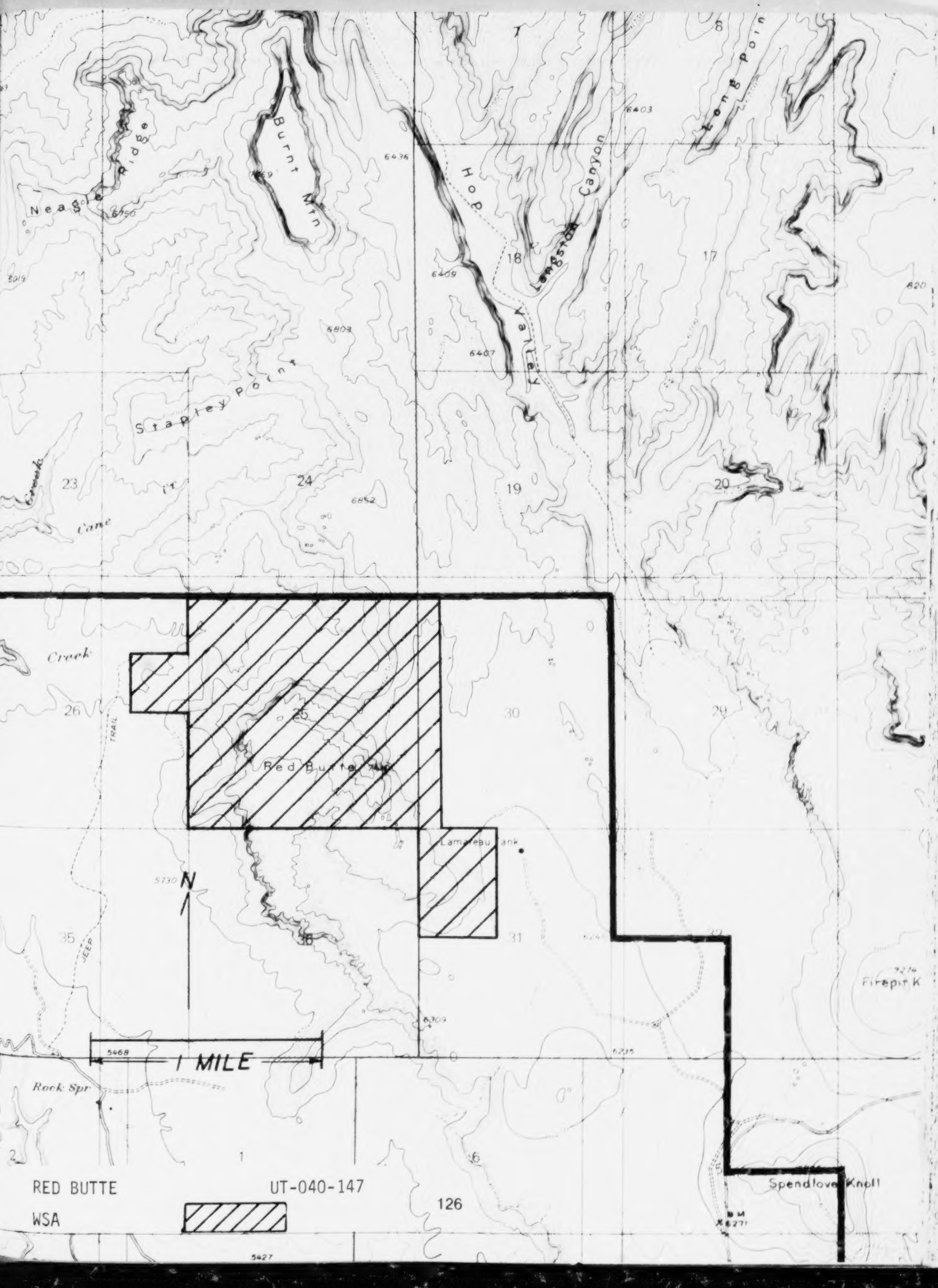
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for hiking and backpacking. This is further enhanced by being contiguous to the Zion Wilderness Proposal. Technical and non-technical rock climbing and geological study are possible. The butte rises 1,200 feet above the surrounding lands.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None known.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: The public submitted seven comments containing information on wilderness characteristics relative to the unit. All seven comments agree with the intensive inventory finds and concur that the area should be a Wilderness Study Area. No dissenting comments on this unit were received.

4. DECISION: This unit of 804 acres is identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No new information was received concerning the wilderness characteristics of the unit. All comments were in agreement for designating the unit as a WSA.


Neagle Ridge
Burnt Mtn
Hop Valley
Langston Canyon
Long Poin
Stapley Point
Cane
Creek
Red Butte
Lamareau Tank
Rock Spr
Spendlove Knoll
Firepit K
TRAIL
JEEP
N
1 MILE
RED BUTTE
WSA
UT-040-147

UNIT NO. UT-040-148 WSA ACREAGE: 4,433

UNIT NAME: SPRING CREEK CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 1,607

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located east of Kanarraville and immediately north of the Zion National Park boundary.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The initial phase inventory unit contained 4,433 acres of public lands. The inventory unit is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.

This unit possesses a very irregular shape. Because state sections 36 and 2 do not adjoin, the northern portion is connected to the portion adjacent to Zion National Park by a narrow area less than 200 yards in width. The general management authority under sections 302 and 202 of FLPMA, rather than section 603, governs the inclusion of this unit in the wilderness review. Under this authority, it is questionable if the northern tract could be considered "contiguous" to the remainder of the unit. Therefore, the proposed decision was to exclude the northern tract from the intensive phase of the inventory. This northern area contains about one-half of the Kanarra Canyon and is less than 5,000 acres in size.

The inventoried tract is adjacent to the Zion National Park wilderness proposal, contains Spring Canyon, and is 1,607 acres in size.

B. NATURALNESS: A short way is located in the mouth of Spring Canyon. This intrusion is not substantially noticeable. The entire area possesses the naturalness characteristic.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: This area offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The Spring Canyon system is an extremely rugged dissected area. The upper elevations and the upper portions of the canyon possess a moderately dense spruce-fir cover. Because of this natural screening, visitors can find opportunities to screen themselves from one another.

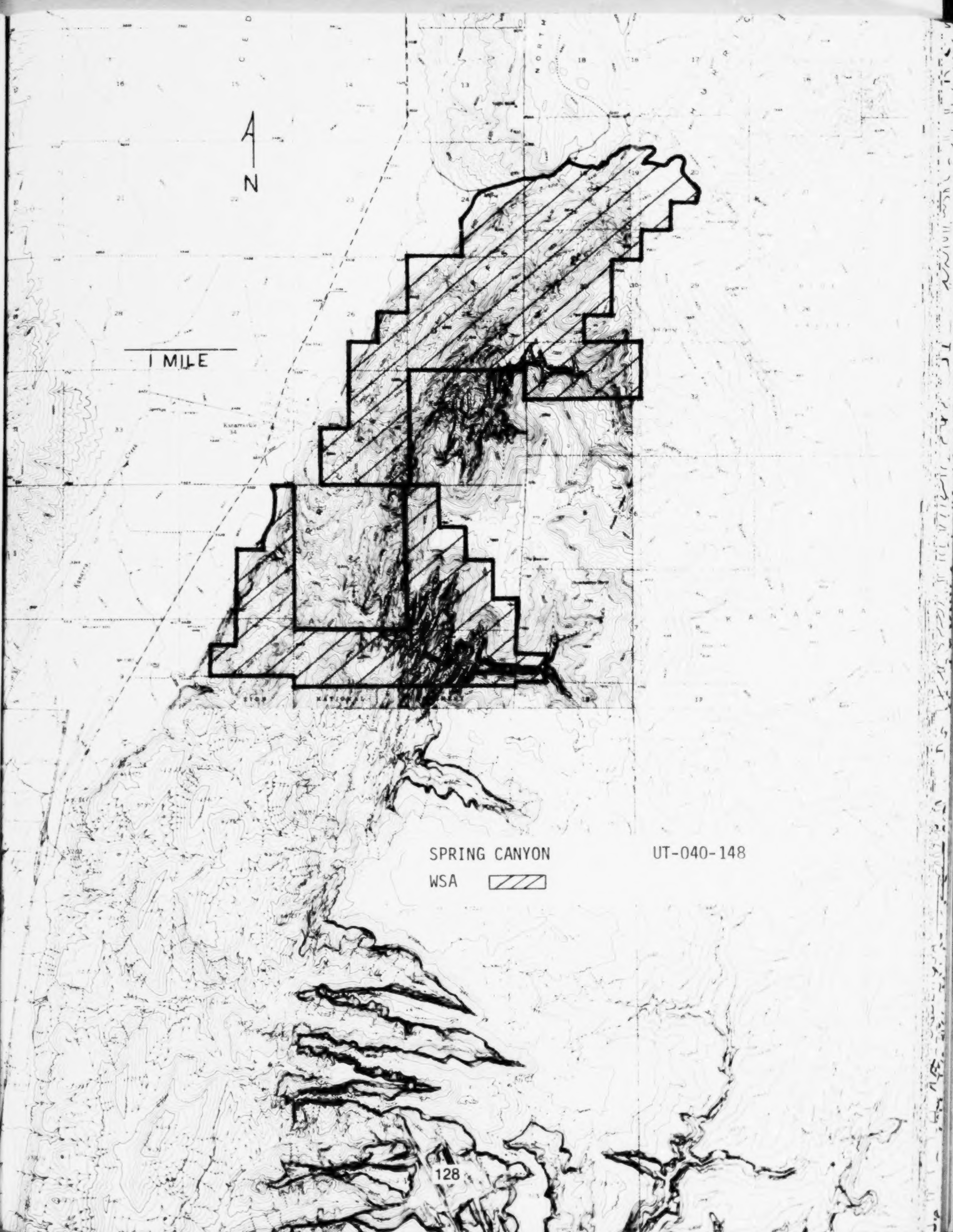
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The Spring Creek Canyon system offers outstanding hiking, exploring and backpacking opportunities. Almost 50 percent of the 6½ miles Spring Canyon system is within the unit. The most entrenched portion of the canyon system is within the unit.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit possesses superlative supplemental values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Sixteen comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. All comments agreed that the 1,607 acre proposal possessed the naturalness characteristic, All comments agreed that the 1,607 acre proposal possessed outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation. Fifteen of the comments stated that the northern portion, excluded from the WSA proposal due to the narrowness of the connecting land, also met WSA criteria and urged that it be added into the WSA proposal. The northern portion was field-checked and it was found to meet the criteria. In addition, twelve of the comments, including that of the Governor of the State of Utah, suggested that BLM should acquire the two constricting State sections and add them to the WSA proposal. No comments disagreed with the WSA proposal.

4. DECISION: The entire unit of 4,433 acres is identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All comments were in agreement that the unit qualified for WSA status; many comments urged that the deleted northern portion be returned to the unit. A subsequent field check ascertained that the northern portion does indeed meet the requirements for wilderness study and that parcel of 2,826 acres is returned to the WSA.


N
1 MILE
SPRING CANYON
UT-040-148
WSA

UNIT NO.: UT-040-149 WSA ACREAGE: 600

UNIT NAME: THE WATCHMAN UNIT ACREAGE: 640

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit consists of the rugged foothills and the lower slopes of Johnston Mountain and The Watchman (formations in Zion National Park). The area is directly south of Springdale, Utah.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit consists of 640 acres of public land. The unit is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally identified as having wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit is in a natural state. There are no known human intrusions within its boundaries.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The unit contains the lower slopes and rugged foothills below Johnston Mountain and The Watchman, formations located in Zion National Park. The area is only sparsely vegetated, but the broken up nature of the topography provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

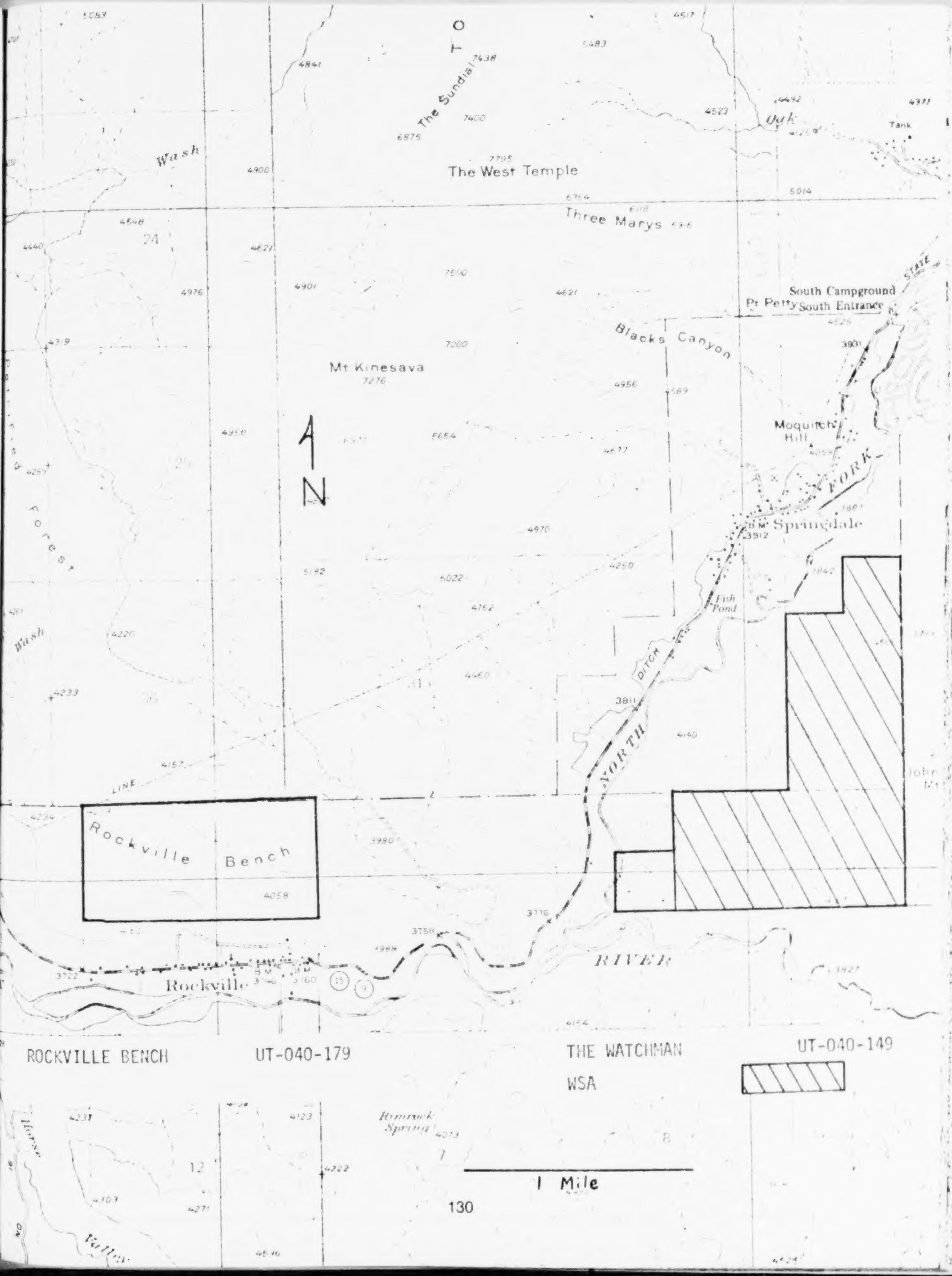
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit provides outstanding opportunities for hiking and exploring. This is enhanced by being contiguous to the Zion Wilderness Proposal.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The area is very close to the bighorn sheep release area in Zion. It is probable that the unit will be utilized by the sheep.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Ten comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. Six of the comments agree that the 640 acre WSA proposal possesses the naturalness characteristic; four comments disagree. Six comments agree that the unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation, four disagree. In addition, four comments point out that the unit could be used for access to Parunuweap Canyon within Zion National Park, presently closed to easy public access due to the location of private lands.

4. DECISION: A portion of the unit, 600 acres, is identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: New information was provided during the comment period; specifically, the presence of a constructed, well-used road within the unit along the eastern side of the North Fork of the Virgin River. The relatively flat, protruding 40 acre parcel is dropped from the unit, as it does not qualify as natural. The majority of the comments concerning other wilderness characteristics are supportive of WSA designation. The dissenting comments refer to aspects external to the unit, alternative uses of the land, or factors within the unit that do not affect wilderness suitability. A detailed decision rationale which addresses all wilderness characteristics is in the permanent unit file.


The Sundial
The West Temple
Three Marys
Mt Kinesava
Blacks Canyon
South Campground
Pt Petty
South Entrance
Moquitch Hill
Springdale
Fish Pond
NORTH
FORK
DITCH
RIVER
Rockville Bench
Rockville
Forest
Wash
LINE
N
ROCKVILLE BENCH UT-040-179
THE WATCHMAN UT-040-149
WSA
1 Mile

UNIT NO.: UT-040-150 WSA ACREAGE: 1,040

UNIT NAME: NORTH FORK VIRGIN RIVER UNIT ACREAGE: 1,040

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is contiguous to the northeast corner of Zion National Park in Kane County. The unit includes the North Fork of the Virgin River. The unit is east of I-15 approximately 10 miles southeast of Kanarraville.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 1040 acres of public lands. The size of the area possessing wilderness characteristics is 1040 acres. The unit is contiguous to the Zion National Park wilderness proposal.

B. NATURALNESS: The North Fork of the Virgin River unit has primarily been affected by the forces of nature. One unmaintained way traverses the extreme northwest portion of the unit. The way appears to provide access to an old timber harvest area outside of the unit and is no longer in use. There are no other impacts of man's work within the unit.

The entire unit (1040 acres) possesses naturalness and is contiguous to Zion National Parks Wilderness proposal. The unit meets the size criteria exception outlined on page 12(c)1 of the wilderness Inventory Handbook.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Opportunities for solitude are limited to the canyon bottom of the North Fork of the Virgin River. The remainder of the unit is gently sloping and vegetated with oak brush, pinyon-juniper and sagebrush. There is little topographic or vegetative screening on the bench lands above the river.

The river bottom does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude when combined with the adjacent canyon system in Zion National Park and on other BLM administered lands. The North Fork within the unit represents a small portion of a larger canyon system and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The canyon bottom of the North Fork of the Virgin River is serpentine, deeply entrenched, and thickly vegetated with Douglas fir. Opportunities for vegetative and topographic screening are excellent.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The canyon bottoms of the North Fork offer primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities such as backpacking, birdwatching, photography and sightseeing. The terrain in the canyon is strewn with dead fall timber and boulders and includes a perennial stream. These factors preclude any motorized activity and insure primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities.

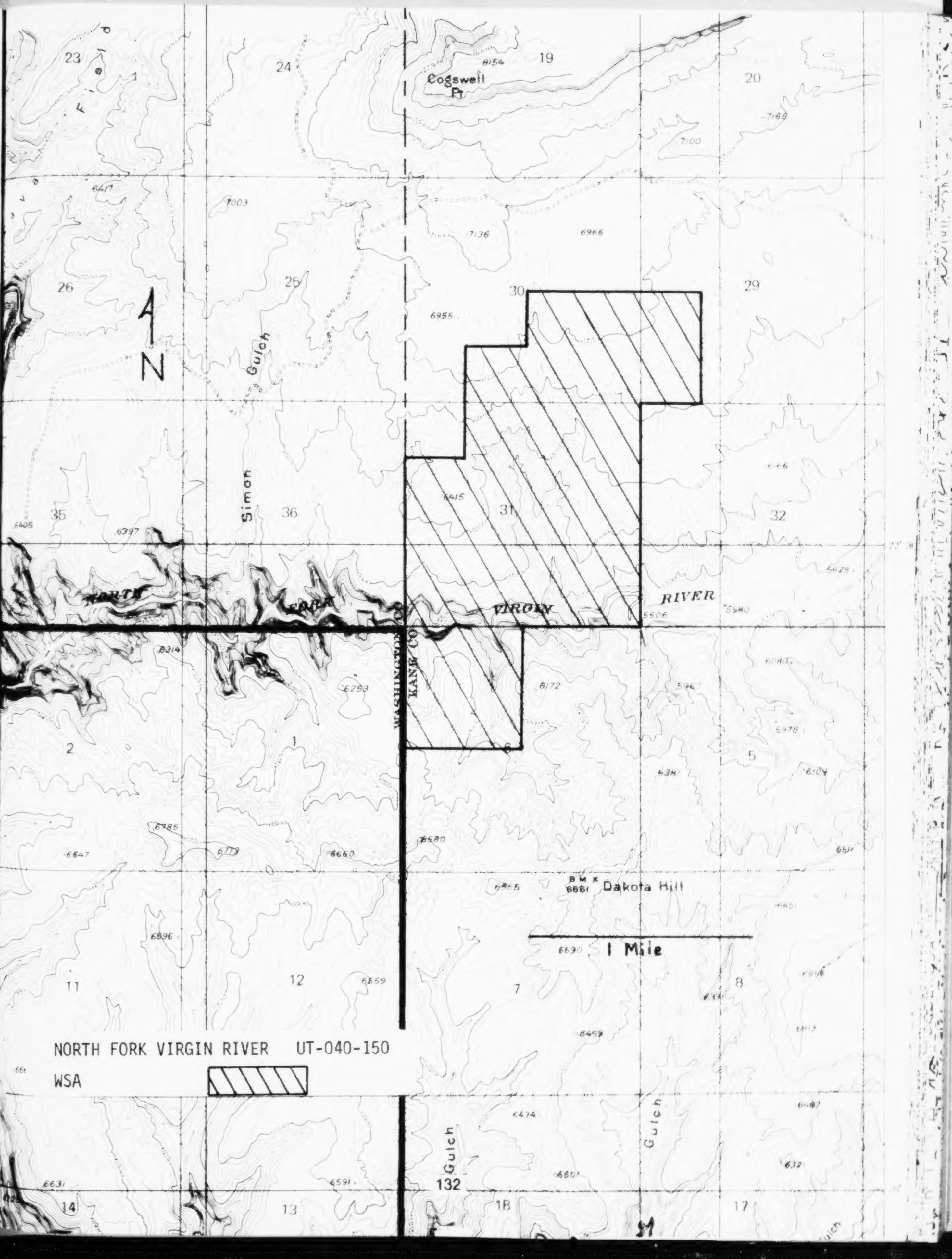
The North Fork provides the major access to the Zion Narrows canyon system. The administration of the canyon system is divided between the National Park Service, BLM, and private individuals. The hiking experience on the North Fork Unit represents 1.6 miles of a possible 13 mile hike to the Zion Narrows trail head. An additional .63 miles of the North Fork is contained in the Deep Creek Unit (UT-040-146). When combined with the primitive unconfined recreation experiences of the adjacent canyon system, the experience within the North Fork of the Virgin River is considered outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The most important supplemental values are scenery and public access afforded to Zion National Park. The scenery received the highest values using the BLM's Visual Resource Management system. Other zoological and botanical features found in Zion National Park are also found in this unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Eight comments containing information on wilderness characteristics were submitted. Seven comments addressed the naturalness characteristic and eight comments addressed the solitude and/or primitive recreation characteristics. All comments stated that the unit possesses wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: 1040 acres of this unit are identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All comments which were received supported the preliminary finding of wilderness characteristics within the unit. Those comments containing specific information agreed that 1040 acres or the entire unit possesses the naturalness characteristic and that outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation exist within the unit.



NORTH FORK VIRGIN RIVER UT-040-150
WSA
Cogswell Pt
Simon Gulch
Field
NORTH FORK VIRGIN RIVER
WASHINGTON CO
KANE CO
Dakota Hill
BM x 6661
1 Mile
Gulch
Gulch
132
N

UNIT NO.: UT-040-153 WSA ACREAGE: 567

UNIT NAME: LAVERKIN CREEK CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 567

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit contains about one and one-half miles of LaVerkin Creek Canyon, seven hundred feet deep in this area. It also contains the confluence with, and about one-half mile of, Bear Canyon, and the north slopes above Willis Creek Canyon (located in Zion National Park). It is located north of the Kolob section of Zion National Park, approximately six miles southeast of Kanarraville, Utah.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 567 acres of public land. The unit is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally identified as having wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable. There are no known human imprints within the unit. The unit includes the confluence with Bear Canyon and a short stretch of Bear Canyon. The bulk of the unit consists of the 700 foot deep, steep-walled canyon of LaVerkin Creek.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The area does offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The narrow sheer-walled canyons of LaVerkin Creek and Bear Canyon continue on into Zion National Park and offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

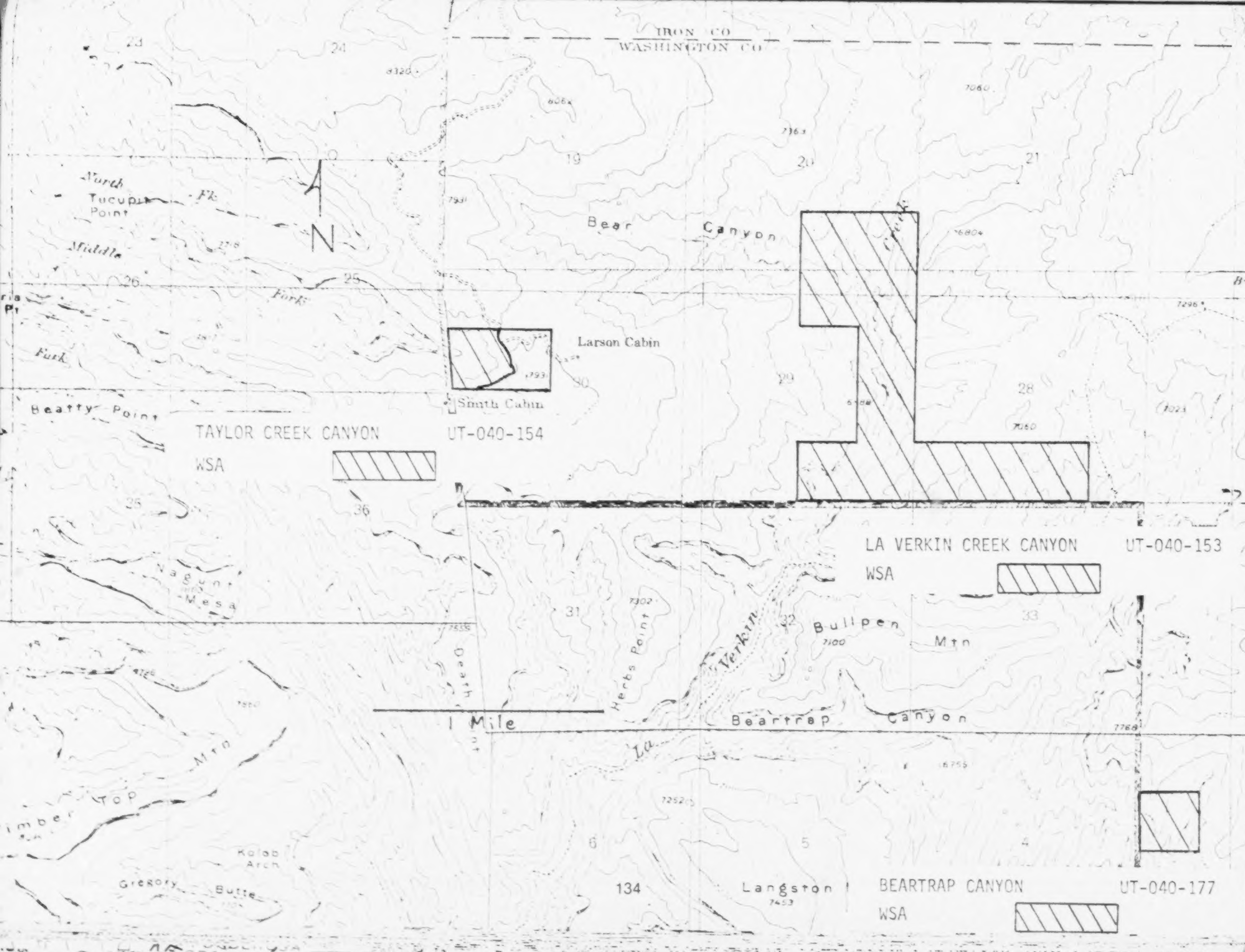
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The canyons are an extension of the hiking opportunities in Zion National Park. There is an outstanding opportunity for hiking, backpacking, and photography.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Outstanding scenery and perennial water could be considered supplemental values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Eight comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. All of the comments agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit possesses wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: This unit is identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments submitted agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit possesses wilderness characteristics. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive wilderness inventory recommendation.


IRON CO
WASHINGTON CO
North
Tucupit
Point
Fk
Middle
Fork
Fork
N
Beatty Point
Bear
Canyon
Creek
Larson Cabin
Smith Cabin
TAYLOR CREEK CANYON
WSA
UT-040-154
LA VERKIN CREEK CANYON
WSA
UT-040-153
Nagunt
Mesa
Death
Herbs Point
Verkin
Bullpen
Mtn
Beartrap
Canyon
1 Mile
La
Top
Mtn
Kolob
Arch
Gregory
Butte
134
Langston
BEARTRAP CANYON
WSA
UT-040-177

UNIT NO.: UT-040-154 WSA ACREAGE: 35

UNIT NAME: TAYLOR CREEK CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 75

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit consists of the head of the canyon of the Middle Fork of Taylor Creek and some adjacent lands on the Kolob Terrace. The bulk of the canyon is within Zion National Park. The unit is located approximately five miles southeast of Kanarraville, Utan.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 75 acres of public land. It is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally identified as having wilderness values.

The area with wilderness characteristics contains 35 acres of public lands.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit consists of the head of the Middle Fork of Taylor Creek Canyon and adjacent lands. A way crosses the unit and skirts the canyon head. A branch leads east out of the unit. Both ways lead to cabins on private land and dead-end there. The portion of the canyon head and is completely natural. The imprint of man's work in this portion is substantially unnoticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The area affords an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The canyon head is an extension of one of the Kolob Canyons, and is proposed by the National Park Service as Wilderness. The canyon provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

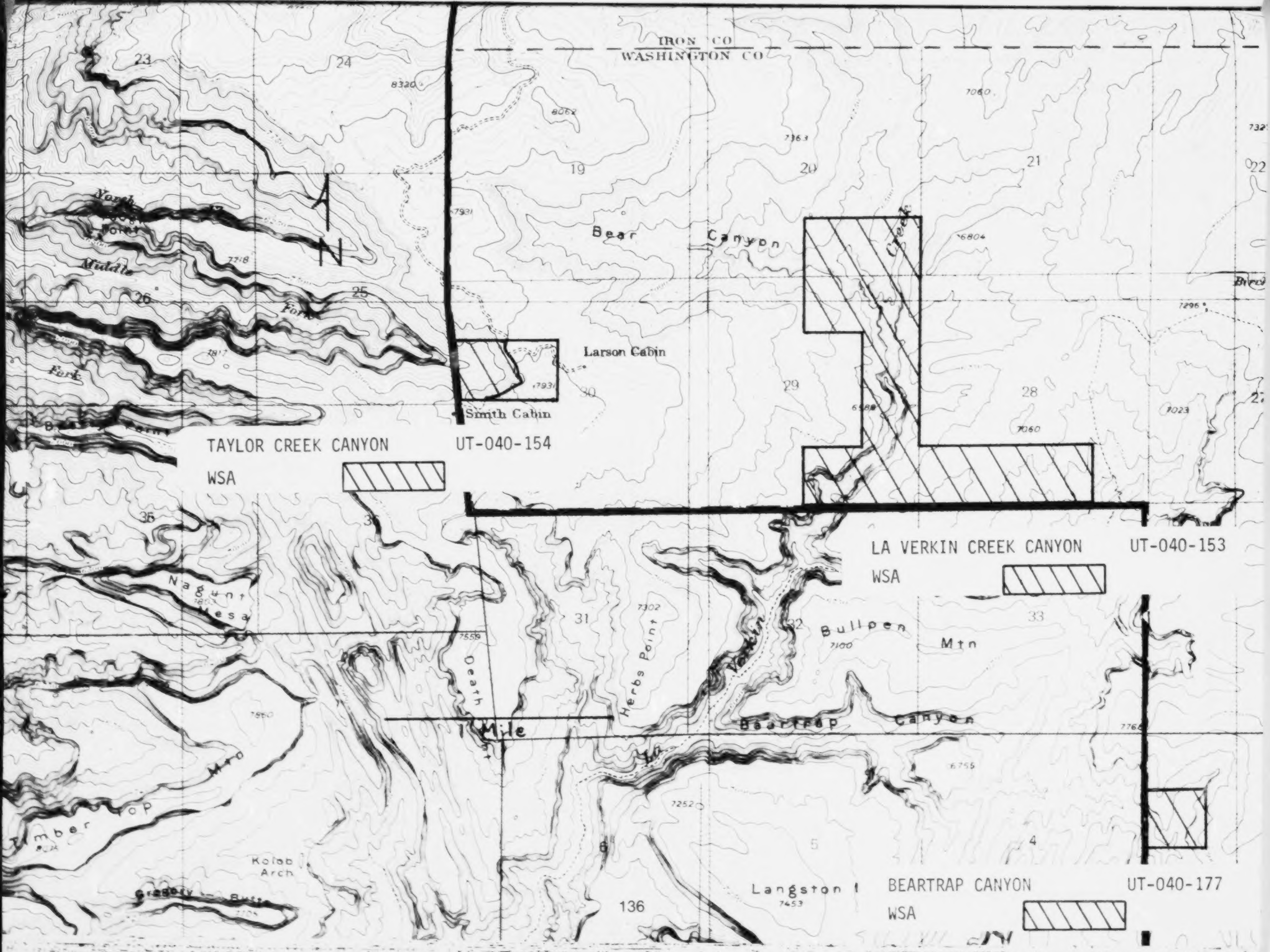
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The canyon head is an extension of one of the Kolob Canyons in Zion National Park. The canyon provides an outstanding opportunity for hiking and backpacking.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None known.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments were submitted regarding wilderness characteristics. All of the comments agreed with the BLM proposal that 35 acres of the unit possess wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: 35 acres of the unit is identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments submitted agreed with the BLM porposal. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive inventory recommendation.



IRON CO
WASHINGTON CO
Bear Canyon
Creek
Larson Cabin
Smith Cabin
TAYLOR CREEK CANYON
UT-040-154
WSA
LA VERKIN CREEK CANYON
UT-040-153
WSA
BEARTRAP CANYON
UT-040-177
WSA
Middle
Fork
Nagunt Mesa
Death
Mile
Herbs Point
Verkin
Bullpen
Mtn
Beartrap
Canyon
Kolob Arch
Langston
Timber Top Mtn
N

UNIT NO.: UT-040-155 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: SUNSET CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 2,220

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit contains the southwest slope of Sunset Canyon. It is located on the west side of the Zion Canyon section of Zion National Park, approximately two miles northeast of Virgin, Utah.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 2,220 acres of public land. The unit is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally identified as having wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The impact of man's works is substantially unnoticeable. The unit is primarily the side slopes of a canyon. The areas above and below the unit are mostly privately owned. The unit contains part of the Virgin oil field.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The area does not present an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit is primarily an exposed canyon wall. Topographic and vegetative screening are lacking.

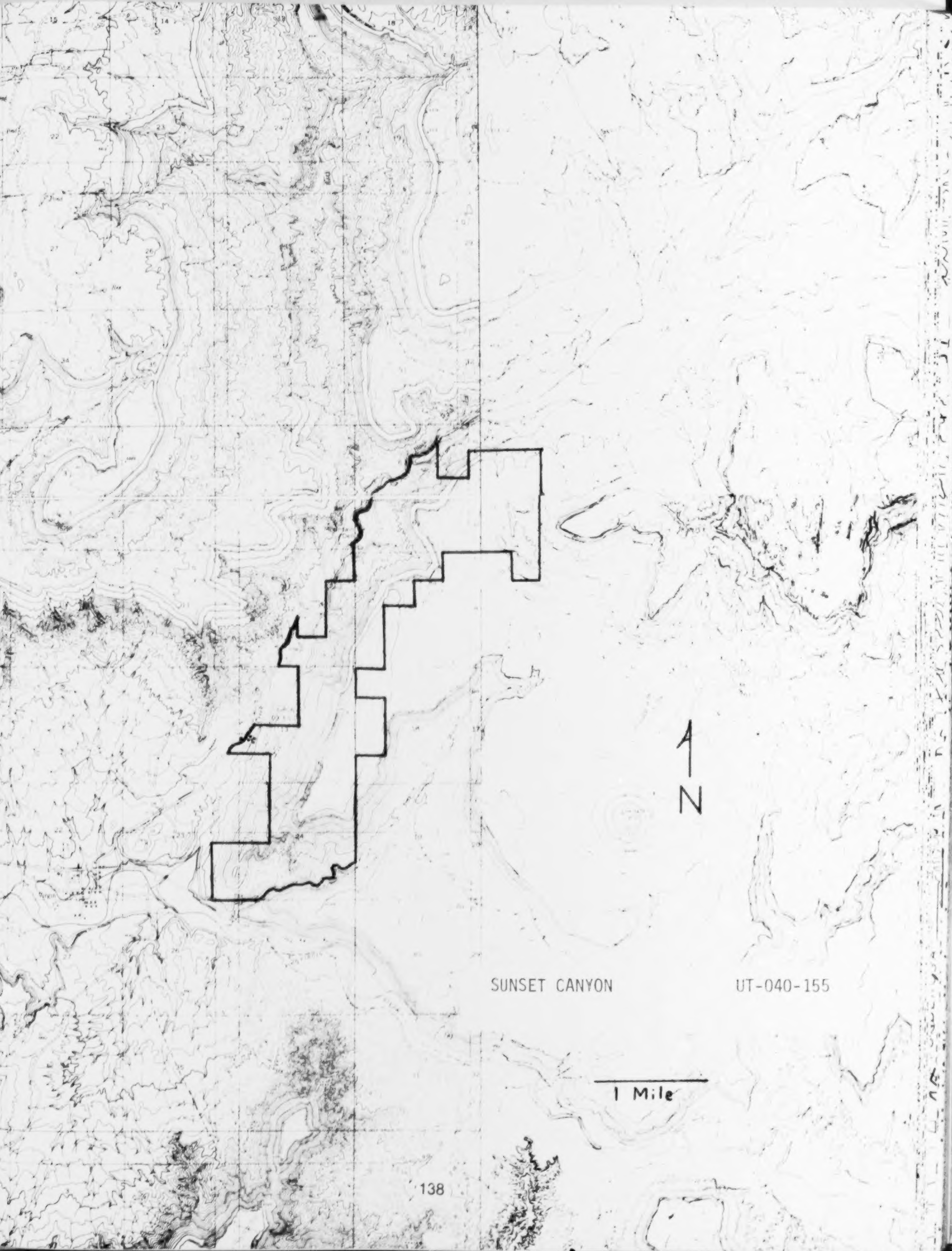
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Due to the topography of the unit, opportunities for recreation are very limited. The slope is not steep enough for technical rock climbing, yet it is too steep for hiking. The unit does not form a logical extension of the Zion National Park Wilderness Proposal.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None known.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Only one comment was submitted on this unit. It agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit lacks wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: The unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION: The one comment submitted agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit lacks wilderness characteristics. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive inventory recommendation.


N
SUNSET CANYON
UT-040-155
1 Mile

UNIT NO.: UT-040-173 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: SHUNESBURG UNIT ACREAGE: 80

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in Washington County, contiguous with Zion National Park and north of the ghost town of Shunesburg.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit consists of 80 acres of public land. It is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally identified as having wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit is completely natural, with no known human intrusions.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The unit consists of a gentle slope near the base of Parunuweap Canyon. It lacks both vegetative and topographic screening. There is not an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

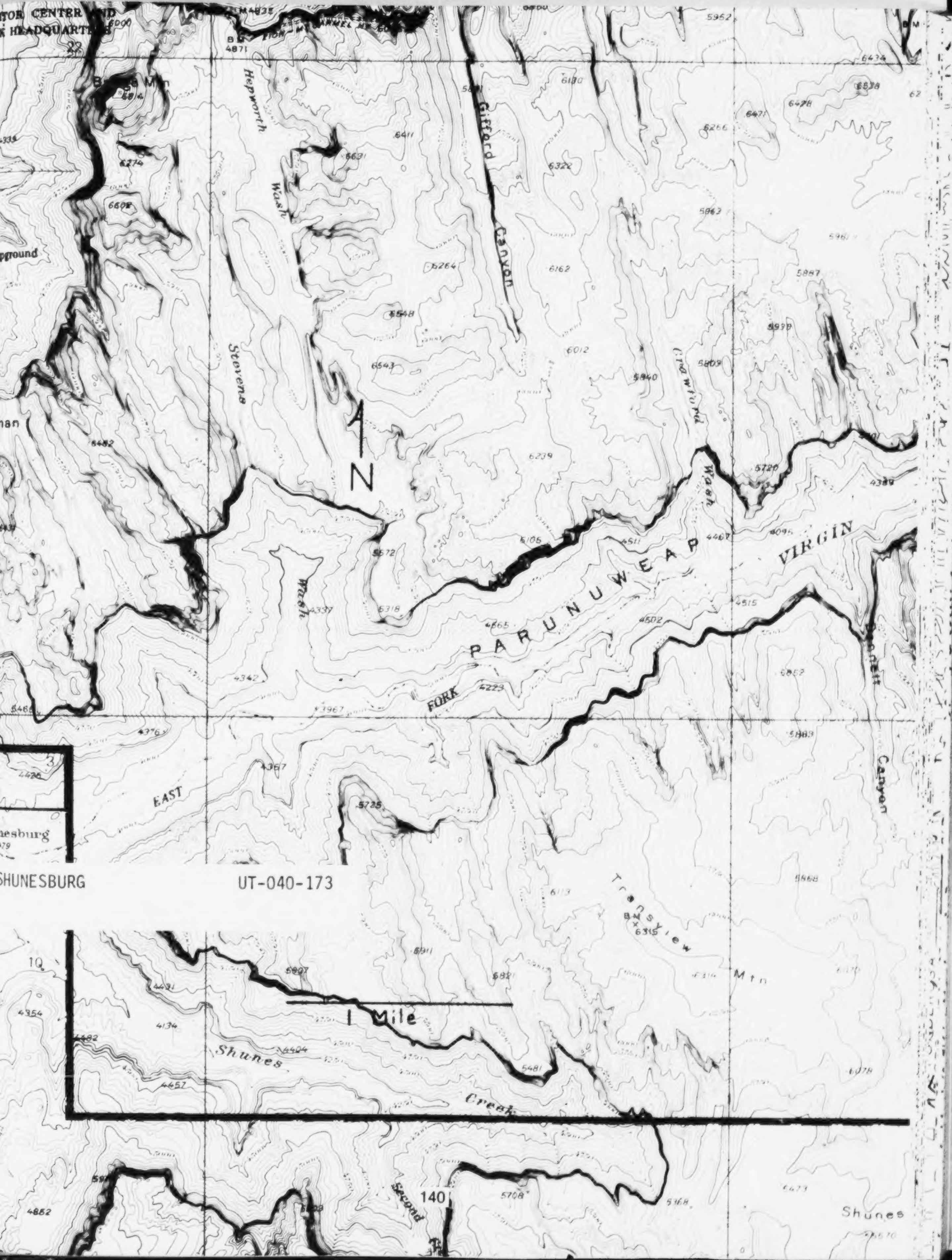
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Due to the open nature of the terrain, there is no outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None known.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: The sole comment received contained no information concerning wilderness characteristics, merely being an expression of agreement with the Intensive Inventory recommendation. The recommendation is that the unit lacks an outstanding opportunity for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No information has been received on the wilderness characteristics in the unit that would justify changing the Intensive Inventory recommendation that the unit does not meet the wilderness criteria.



SHUNESBURG UT-040-173

UNIT NO.: UT-040-174 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: JOLLEY GULCH UNIT ACREAGE: 160

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit consists of the middle portion of Jolley Gulch. At this point the Gulch is a wide, shallow valley. It is located above the White Cliffs on the east side of the Zion Canyon section of Zion National Park.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 160 acres of public land. The unit is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. The unit consists of a broad, shallow valley above the White Cliffs. There are two vehicle ways running the length of the Gulch. Summer home development has taken place on private land immediately north of the unit boundary.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Because of the physical nature of the unit, it does not afford an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The sparsely vegetated and shallow valley makes avoidance of the sights and sounds of other people within the unit difficult.

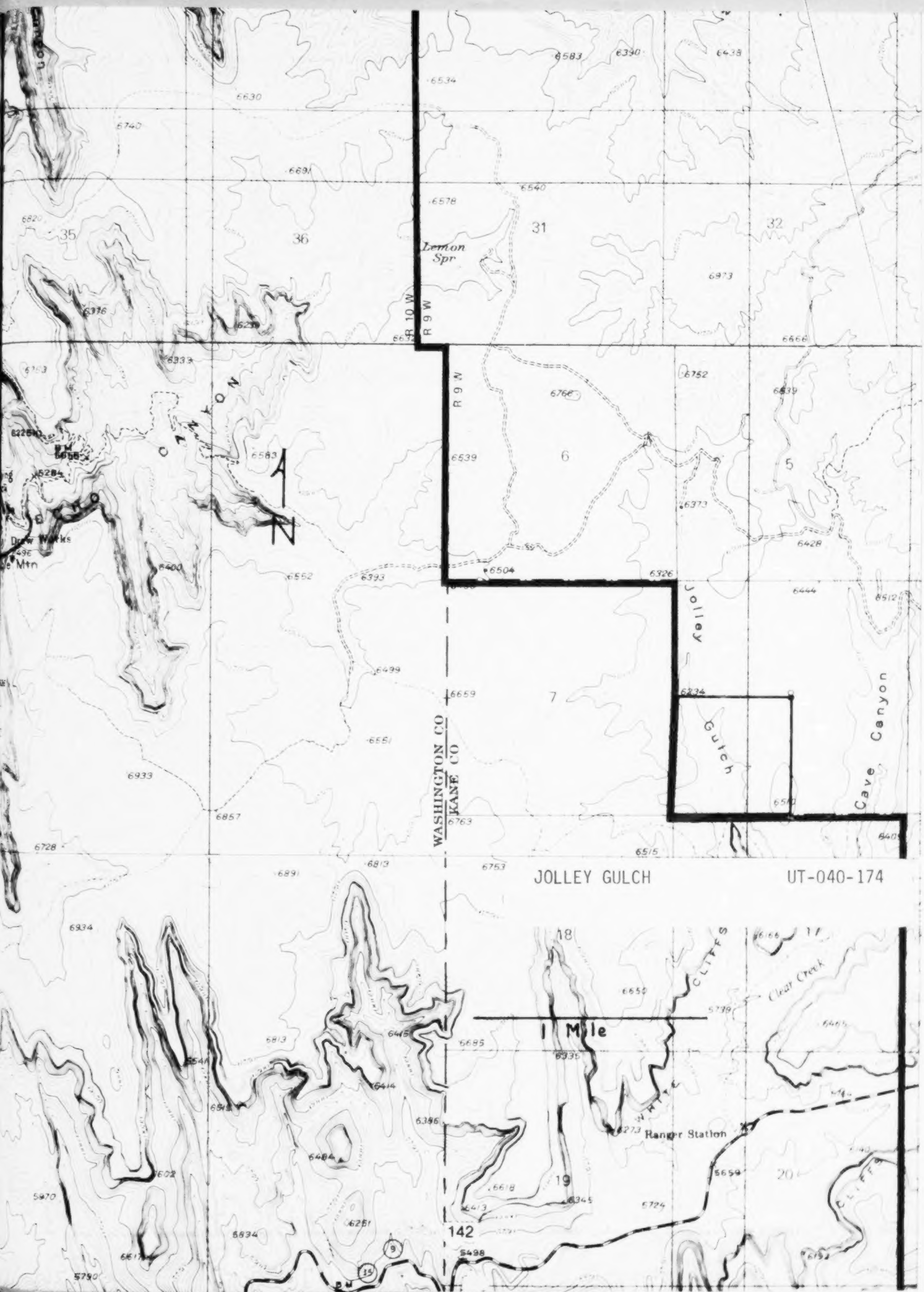
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit's physical characteristics severely limit recreational opportunity. Although hiking and horseback riding are possible, they are not considered to be outstanding opportunities.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None known.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Two comments provided specific information concerning the wilderness characteristics. A third comment provided no information, simply expressing agreement with the Intensive Inventory findings. The other two comments are identical, with the exception of a paragraph. The comments provide no new information and there would be no basis for altering the recommendation that the area does not qualify for WSA status.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No information has been received that would justify revising the Intensive Inventory recommendation that the area does not meet the wilderness criteria.


JOLLEY GULCH
UT-040-174
Lemon Spr
R 10 W
R 9 W
Jolley Gulch
Cave Canyon
WASHINGTON CO
KANE CO
Clear Creek
Ranger Station
Drew Works
1 Mile
CANYON
CLIFFS
31
32
35
36
6
5
7
18
19
20
142
6583
6390
6438
6534
6630
6740
6691
6540
6578
6973
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6515
6934
6650
5739
6685
6813
6335
6386
6273
6484
5659
6618
6345
5970
6413
6724
6834
6261
5498
5790

UNIT NO.: UT-040-175 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: HOME VALLEY KNOLL UNIT ACREAGE: 80

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is a relatively level plot of land between Home Valley Knoll and the boundary of Zion National Park. It is located approximately one mile west of the Lava Point Fire Lookout in Zion National Park.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 80 acres of public lands. The unit is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit is essentially natural. Some four-wheel drive dirt tracks penetrate the edge of the unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: This unit consists of a large weed covered field and several groves of aspens. There is no variation in elevation throughout the unit. It is surrounded by private land. At least four summer homes are visible from virtually anywhere in the unit. It is separated from the Zion National Park by a fence. Any form of solitude would be unattainable in the unit.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Although horseback riding would be possible, riding distances would be limited. One would either be in trespass or forced to jump a fence. The only other activities would be walking in a field or climbing a tree.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None known.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Two comments were received on the unit. One of these contained no information, but simply expressed agreement with the inventory recommendation that the unit did not qualify as a WSA. The other comment asked that we reconsider the unit for WSA status.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No information has been received on the wilderness characteristics that would justify changing the Intensive Inventory recommendation that the unit does not meet the wilderness criteria.

UNIT NO.: UT-040-176 WSA ACREAGE: 89

UNIT NAME: GOOSE CREEK CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 120

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit consists of the upper end of Goose Creek Canyon on Kolob Terrace. The remainder of Goose Creek Canyon, a tributary of the Virgin River, is within Zion National Park. The unit is located approximately one and one-half miles southwest of the Lava Point Fire Lookout in Zion National Park.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 120 acres of public land. The unit is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally identified as having wilderness values.

The area with wilderness characteristics contains 89 acres of public lands.

B. NATURALNESS: With the exception of a good dirt way in the northern park of the unit, the unit is completely natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Considered in conjunction with the Zion National Park proposed Wilderness, opportunities for solitude are outstanding. The opportunities exist in the canyon bottom and above it on Horse Pasture Plateau.

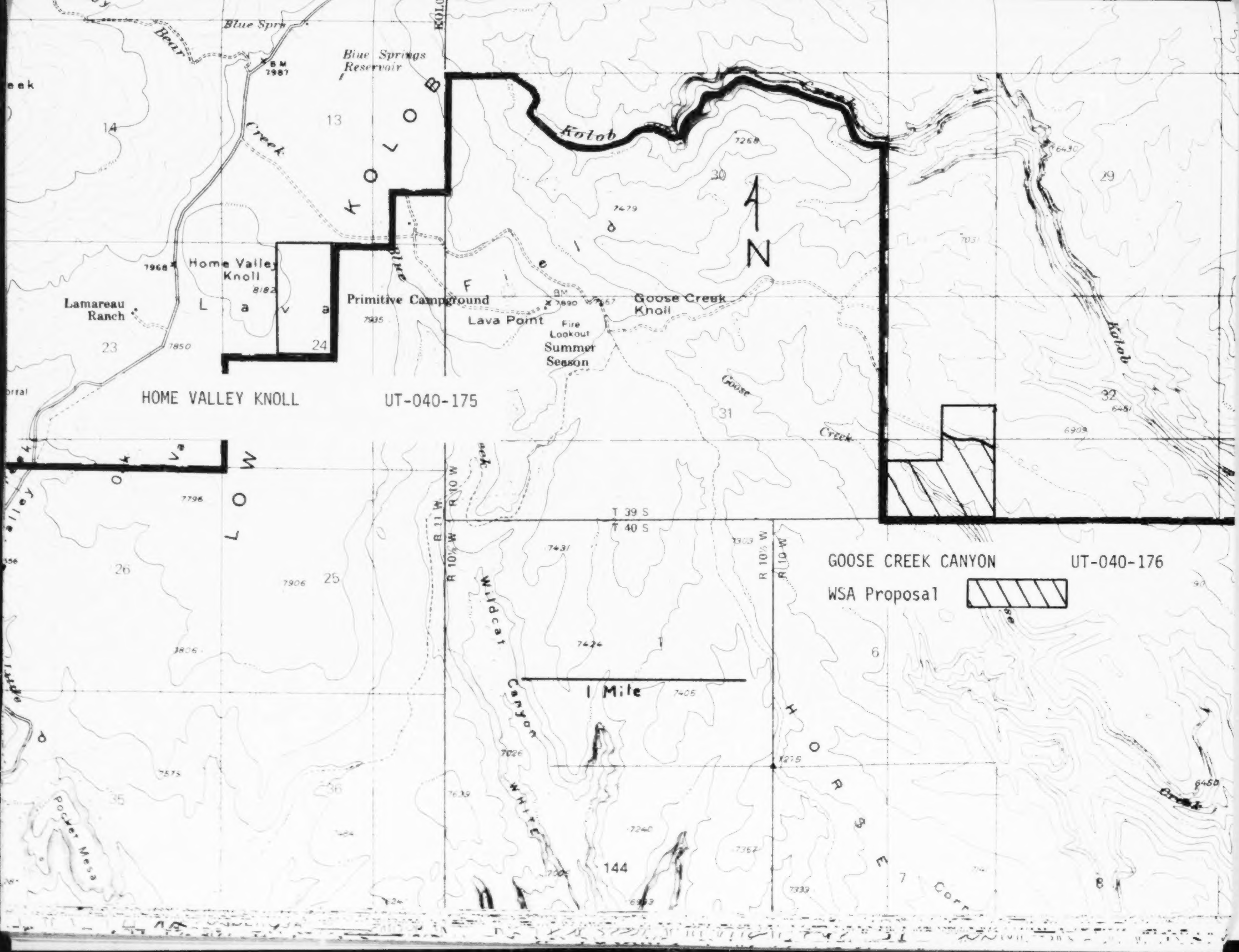
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit possesses outstanding opportunities for primitive hiking and backpacking. This is enhanced by being contiguous with the Zion National Park proposed Wilderness. The Canyon can be reached only by hiking up the Zion Narrows. The upper levels are accessible from Lava Point and Horse Pasture Plateau.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Geological features of erosion. Falcons found in the area.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Five comments were submitted regarding wilderness characteristics. All of the comments agreed that 89 acres of the unit possess wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: 89 acres of the unit is identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments submitted agreed that 89 acres of the unit possess wilderness characteristics. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive inventory recommendation.


GOOSE CREEK CANYON
UT-040-176
WSA Proposal
HOME VALLEY KNOLL
UT-040-175
KOLOB
Lava
Point
Blue Springs Reservoir
Home Valley Knoll
Lamareau Ranch
Primitive Campground
Lava Point
Fire Lookout
Summer Season
Goose Creek Knoll
Kolob
Goose Creek
Wildcat Canyon
WHITE
HORSE
1 Mile
T 39 S
T 40 S
R 11 W
R 10 W
R 10½ W
Pocket Mesa
144
N

UNIT NO.: UT-040-177 WSA ACREAGE: 40

UNIT NAME: BEARTRAP CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 40

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located on the Kolob Terrace east of the Kolob section of Zion National Park. The unit contains part of the upper portion of Beartrap Canyon.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit consists of 40 acres of public land. It is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally identified as having wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit is entirely natural with no known human impacts.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The major part of the unit is the upper end of Beartrap Canyon. The canyon is over 600 feet deep at this point, twisting and turning up out of Zion Park. The rough topography and difficulty of access provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

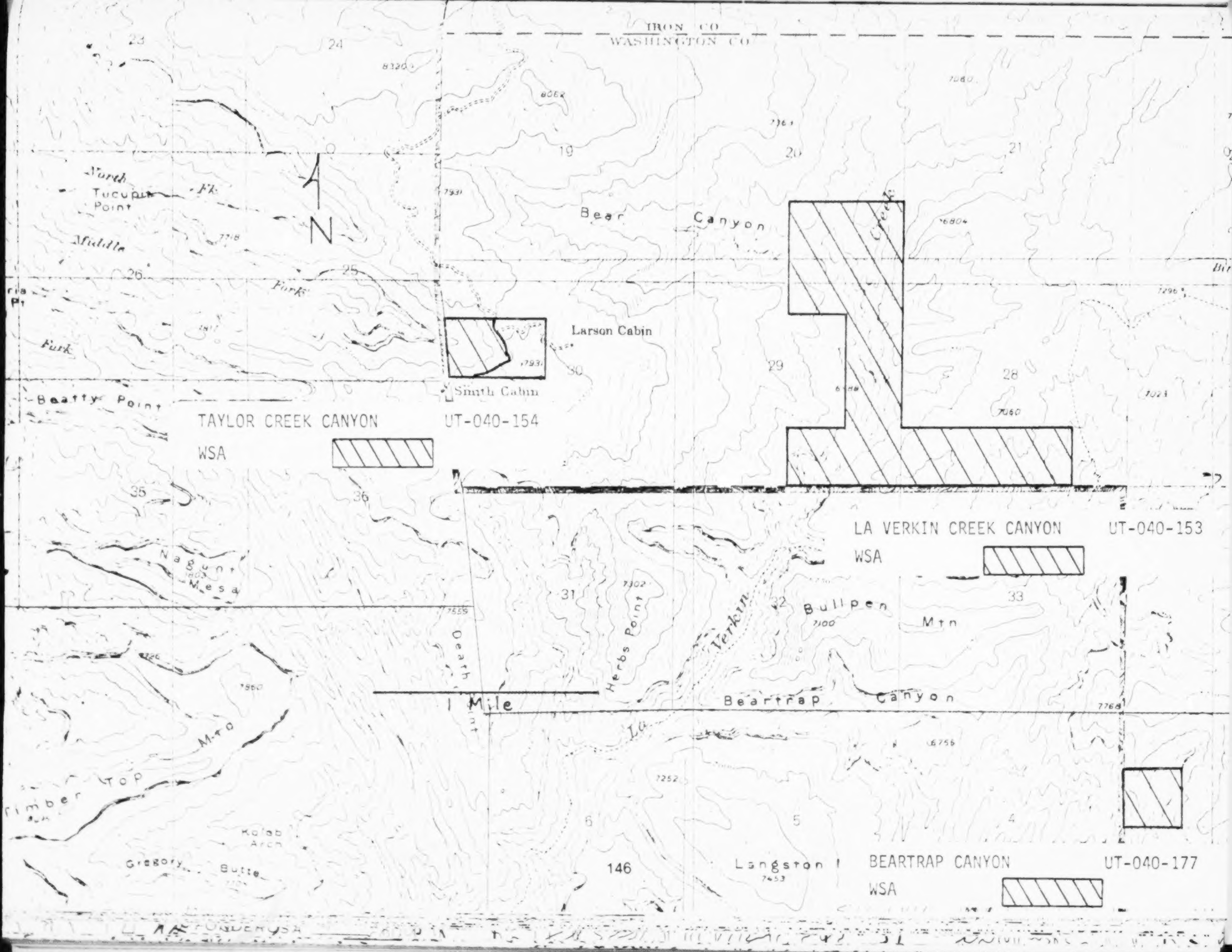
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The only access to the canyon bottom is through Zion National Park. The unit is an outstanding hiking/backpacking area.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Outstanding scenery:sheer canyon walls, stream in bottom, "hanging gardens."

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Eight comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. All of the comments agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit possesses wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: This unit is identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments submitted agreed with the BLM proposal that the unit possesses wilderness characteristics. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive wilderness inventory recommendation.


IRON CO
WASHINGTON CO
TAYLOR CREEK CANYON
UT-040-154
WSA
LA VERKIN CREEK CANYON
UT-040-153
WSA
BEARTRAP CANYON
UT-040-177
WSA
Larson Cabin
Smith Cabin
Bear Canyon
Creek
North Fk
Tucupit Point
Middle Fork
Fork
Beatty Point
Nagunt Mesa
Death Point
Herbs Point
Verkin
Bullpen Mtn
Beartrap Canyon
Timber Top Mtn
Kolob Arch
Gregory Butte
Langston
1 Mile
N

UNIT NO.: UT-040-179 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: ROCKVILLE BENCH UNIT ACREAGE: 320

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is a large bench projecting out of Zion National Park above Rockville, Utah. It borders the National Park on the north and rises four hundred feet above the town.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 320 acres of public lands. The inventory unit is contiguous with lands in Zion National Park which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: One intrusion is identified in the unit. A single electrical line crosses the extreme northwest corner of the unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The unit is a flat bench top with little vegetative cover. Vegetative and topographic screening are absent. Opportunities for solitude are not present.

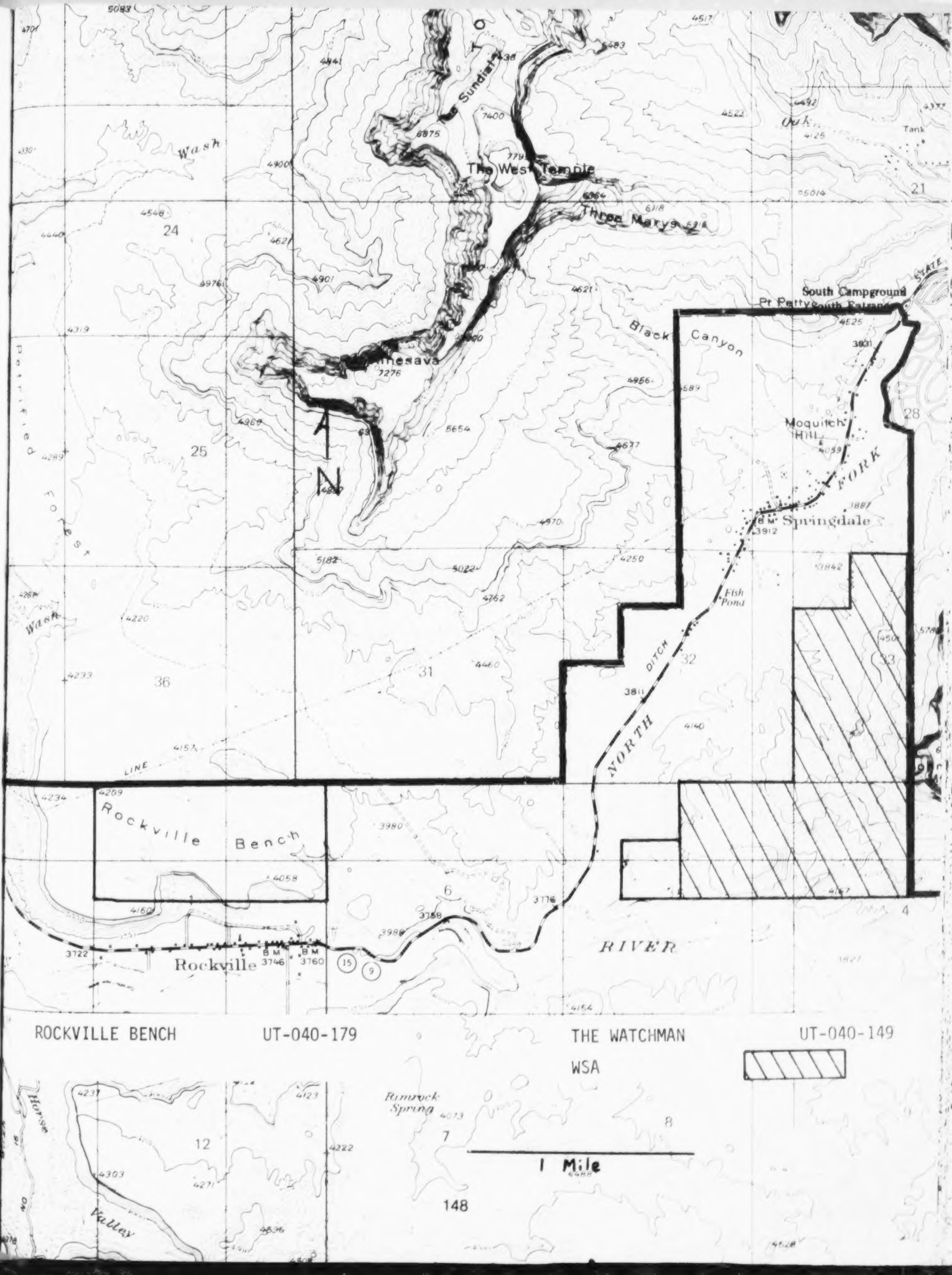
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The physical nature of the unit is such that there is no outstanding opportunity for primitive or unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None known.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: The public submitted three comments containing information on wilderness characteristics relative to the unit. A fourth comment contained no information, simply expressing support and agreement for the Intensive Inventory finding that the unit does not qualify according to the wilderness characteristics criteria. Two comments disagreed with the inventory finding that the unit possesses the naturalness characteristic. Two comments agree that the unit does not afford an outstanding opportunity for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation; one comment disagrees but provides no new information.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No information was received on the wilderness characteristics of the unit that would justify changing the Intensive Inventory recommendation that the unit does not meet the wilderness criteria.


The West Temple
Three Marys
Sundial
Black Canyon
Moquitch Hill
Springdale
South Campground
NORTH FORK
North Ditch
Fish Pond
Rockville Bench
Rockville
RIVER
Petrified Forest
Wash
Rimrock Spring
Horse Valley
ROCKVILLE BENCH
UT-040-179
THE WATCHMAN
WSA
UT-040-149
1 Mile

UNIT NO.: UT-040-204B WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: CENTRAL WAH WAH RANGE UNIT ACREAGE: 37,238

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit embraces the central portion of the Wah Wah Mountain range located between Wah Wah Summit (Highway 21) and Pine Grove. The unit is in Beaver County.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTIC:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 37,238 acres of public lands and encloses approximately 1,911 acres of state lands.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit possesses three ways with a total length of 4.6 miles. These ways are: North Canyon Way (1.0 miles), Gun Spring Way (2.7 miles), Kiln Spring Way (.8 miles). The entire North Canyon way and the lower two miles of the Gun Spring way are substantially noticeable. The ways are the only intrusions located in the unit. The impact of these ways is not sufficient to impair the naturalness characteristic possessed by the unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The central portion of the Wah Wah Range lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude. The topographic character of this section of the Wah Wah Mountains is the major influence upon the opportunity for solitude characteristic. The range is characterized by one long (12.3 miles) and extremely narrow ridge. The ridge does not possess lateral ridges. The ridgetop is essentially level with few major departures in elevation. From north to south, the 15 elevations (in feet) identified on U.S.G.S. topographic quadrangles are 8274, 8695, 8668, 8745, 8655, 8395, 8565, 8695, 8829, 9025, 9365, 9383, 9393, 8946, and 8513. There are not prominent peaks in this section of the Wah Wah Range. This mountain range also lacks entrenched canyons lateral to the ridgetop. It would be difficult to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people on the ridgetop or in the lateral drainages. For example, on the ridgetop, any visitors could easily be observed on the slopes below or on the ridge itself.

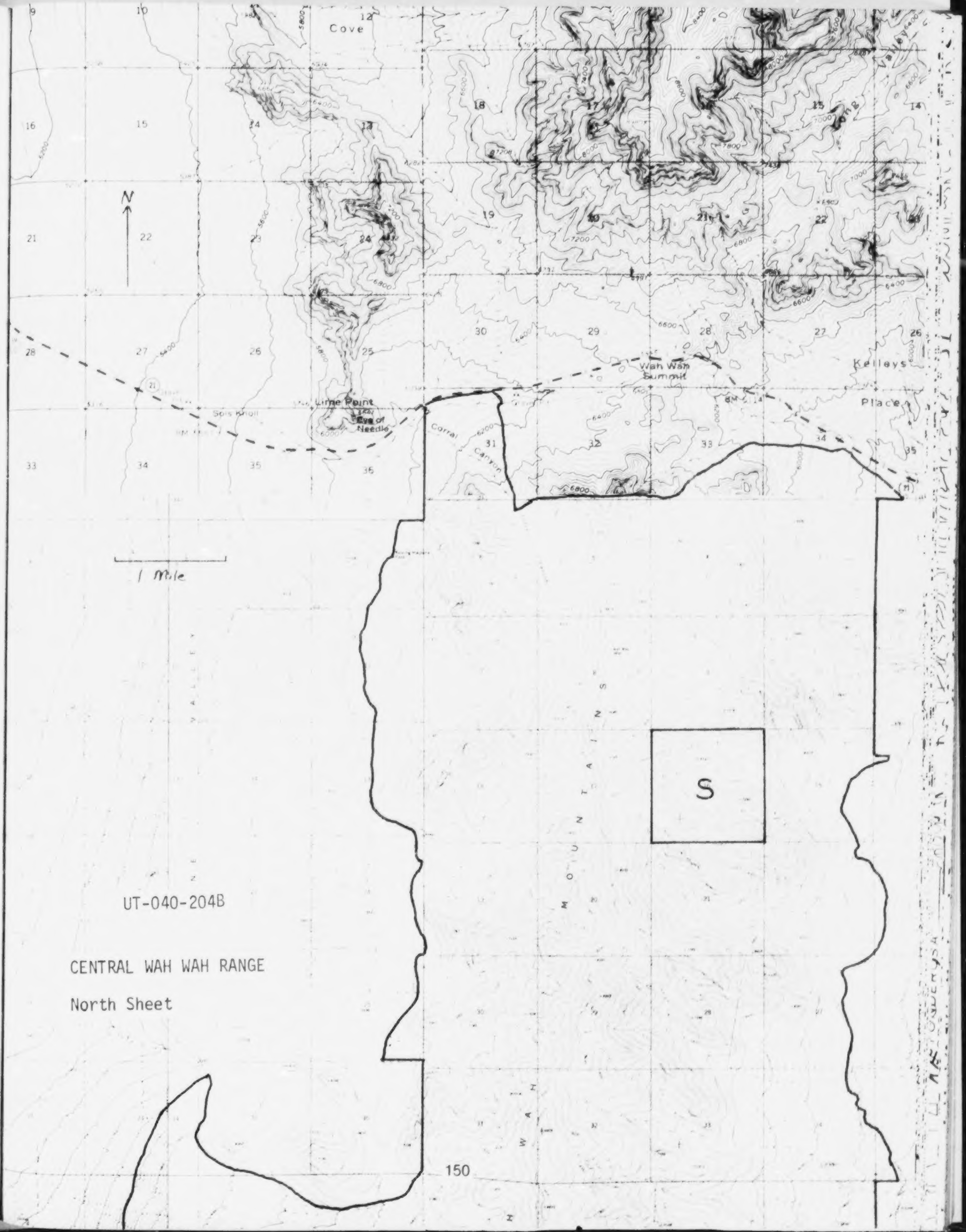
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The central section of the Wah Wah Range lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The hiking and backpacking opportunity is extremely limited because of the topographic configuration of the mountains. Because of the steep slopes, sustained hiking opportunities of overnight duration are only available on the relatively level and continuous summit ridge of the range. The hiking opportunity on this ridge is limited in length to approximately 12 miles of ridgeline. Most of the ridgeline runs in a straight north to south direction and offers little variety along its length. For these reasons, the ridgeline hiking opportunity is not considered outstanding. Opportunities for other types of primitive and unconfined recreation are limited. This section of the Wah Wah Mountains lacks outstanding mountain scenery. Only 16 percent (5800 acres) of the unit is above 8000 feet and one percent (300 acres) is above 9000 feet. The unit contains one spring, lacks a significant flora or fauna, and does not possess any noteworthy geological features. For these reasons, undeveloped recreational activities such as sight seeing for botanical, zoological, or geological features; horseback riding; mountain or rock climbing; fishing; and hunting are limited or nonexistent. There is no great diversity of opportunities for primitive types of recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: This inventory unit contains no known supplemental features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

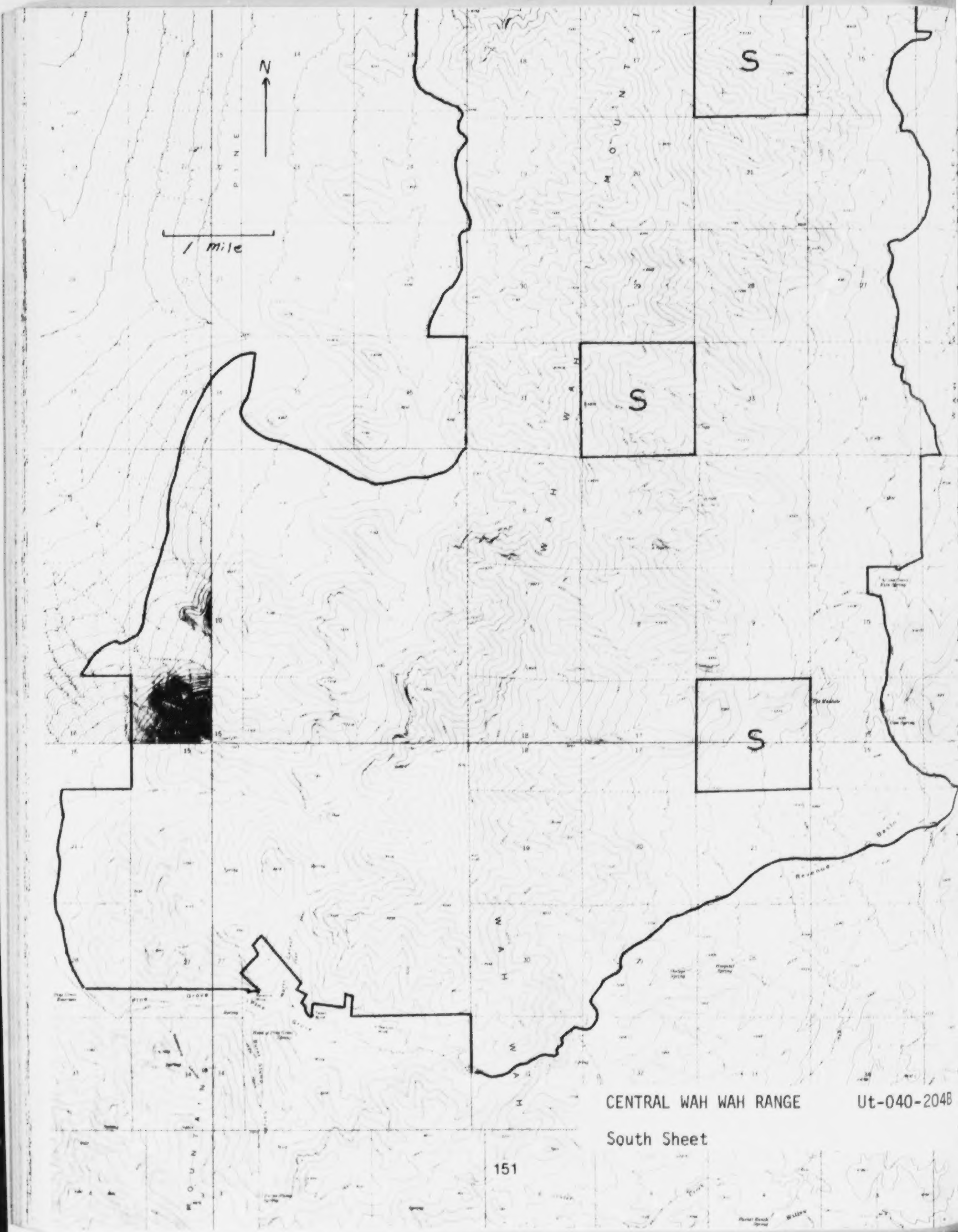
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Thirty-seven comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. Twenty-five comments agreed with the Summary Narrative conclusion that the unit possesses the naturalness characteristic. No comments contended that the unit lacked naturalness. Seven comments stated that outstanding opportunities for solitude or for primitive recreation did not exist. Twenty-six comments stated that the unit did possess outstanding solitude and/or primitive recreation opportunities.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Although the unit does possess the naturalness characteristic, it lacks the outstanding opportunity for solitude characteristic and the outstanding opportunity for primitive unconfined recreation characteristic. Seven comments agreed with the original proposal. Disagreeing comments either did not address the proposal rationales, presented inaccurate descriptions of the unit, or cited inventory criteria absent from the Wilderness Inventory Handbook.



Cove
N
Long Valley
Wah Wah Summit
Kelleys Place
Lime Point
Eye of Needle
Sols Knoll
Corral Canyon
1 Mile
S
UT-040-204B
CENTRAL WAH WAH RANGE
North Sheet



CENTRAL WAH WAH RANGE Ut-040-204B

South Sheet

UNIT NO.: UT-040-216/NV-040-202

WSA ACREAGE: 2,600 (UT)
23,300 (Total)

UNIT NAME: WHITE ROCK RANGE

UNIT ACREAGE: 6,429 (UT)
39,800 (Total)

This unit is an interstate unit which is contiguous to a larger unit in Nevada. The BLM in Nevada has taken the lead on inventorying this unit and will publish the findings in their state summary book.

WHITE ROCKS RANGE
UT-040-216/NV-040-202
UNIT BOUNDARY
WSA
SCALE ½" = 1 MILE
28 S.
20'
29 S.
30 S.
NEVADA
UTAH
SAWTOOTH PEAK
INDIAN PEAK
6400
6800
7000
6600
154
BEAVER
IRON

UNIT NO.: UT-040-217 WSA ACREAGE: 14,830

UNIT NAME: MOQUITH MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE: 15,650

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: Moquith Mountain is located approximately 4 miles west of Kanab. On the west the unit is contiguous to Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park. It is bounded on the north by the Hancock road, Cottonwood Canyon on the east, and the Utah-Arizona border on the south.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 15,650 acres of public land and encloses 640 acres of state and 40 acres of private land.

The Wilderness Study Area contains 14,830 acres of public land and encloses 40 acres of private land.

B. NATURALNESS: Much of the inventory unit appears to meet the naturalness criteria. Those areas where the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable are located in the northeastern and southwestern portions of the unit. In the northeastern corner, the cumulative impact created by the Fredonia town water system in the upper end of Indian Canyon, a powerline crossing the unit to the water system pumphouse and some livestock grazing facilities at Sand Spring has resulted in a loss of naturalness in that area. The singular impacts of a way and a large corral in the southwestern corner also affects the natural character in that portion of the unit. A road from the Hancock Road through the Sand Springs area to the trailhead above the South Fork Indian Canyon Pictograph site is present in the area.

The boundary of the area possessing naturalness has been drawn along the physical edge of the impairing development or as a legal description which eliminates as little intervening land as possible where cumulative impacts are involved. This is based on supplementary guidance to the Wilderness Inventory Handbook as contained in OAD 78-61, Change 3. In the remainder of the inventory unit, ways are generally located on sandy and rocky surfaces and along with two developed springs were determined to be substantially unnoticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The types of terrain within the inventory unit vary from the Coral Pink Sand Dunes in the north to deep canyons in the east. The top of Moquith Mountain is also broken by canyons, but these canyons are smaller and less deep. Most of Moquith Mountain is covered with thick stands of Ponderosa Pine, Pinyon, Juniper, and Gambel Oak. The deep canyons also contain some Cottonwood and Box Elder. These factors provide screening and seclusion to the extent that an outstanding opportunity for solitude is present in the majority of the inventory unit.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: A variety of primitive recreational opportunities are available within the inventory unit. Some of these include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, photography, and sightseeing for geological, botanical, and archeological features. Some of the canyons in the unit contain perennial water which further enhances these recreational activities. The diversity of opportunities and the quality of several activities is such that an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation exists in the inventory unit.

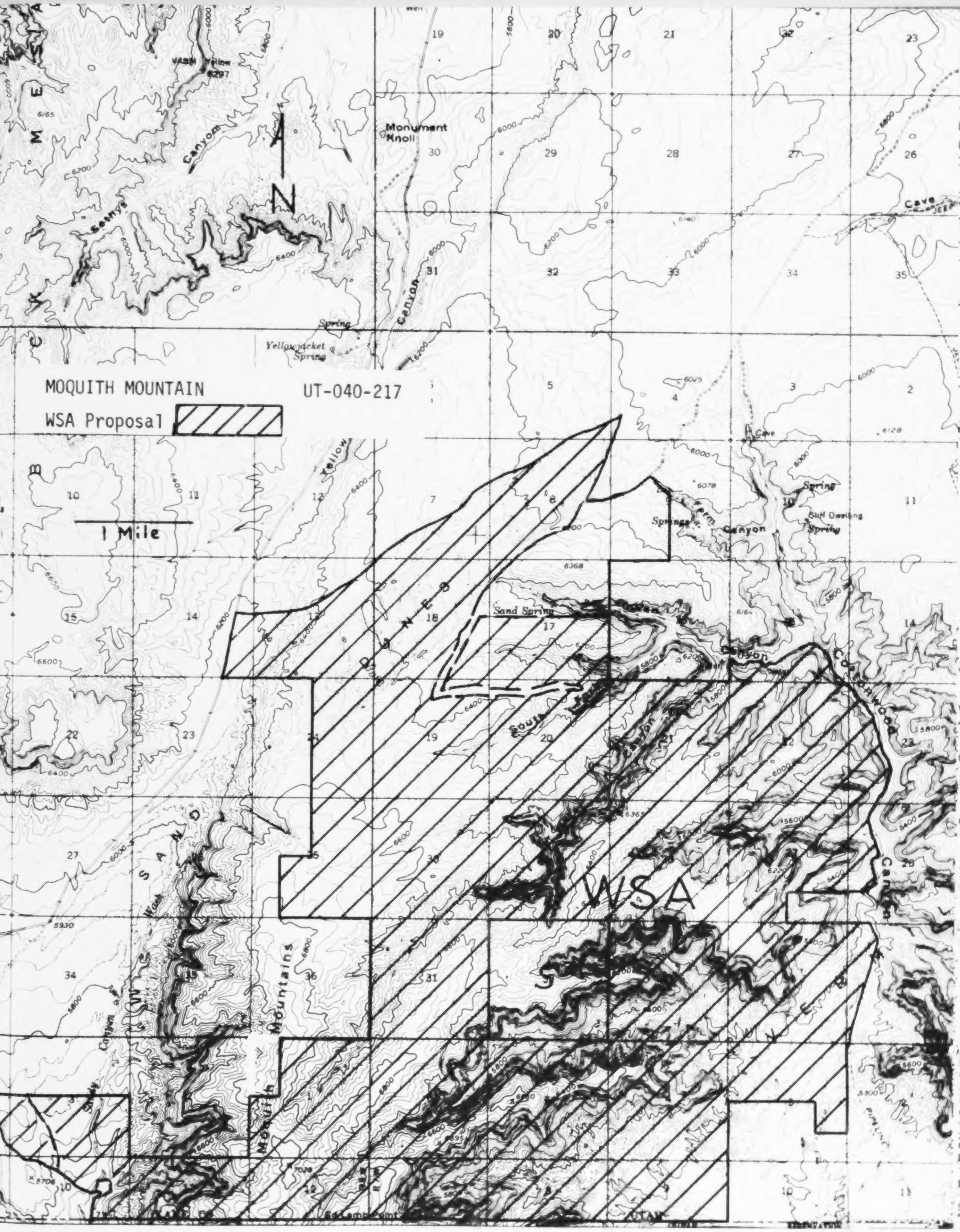
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Geological, ecological, archeological and scenic supplemental values are present in the inventory unit. These are represented by such features as the Coral Pink Sand Dunes, threatened and endangered plants, relict pockets of Quaking Aspen and Douglas Fir, the South Fork Indian Canyon Pictographs, and the colorful red and orange cliffs of the Kayenta and Moenave formations.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: The public submitted fourteen comments containing information relative to wilderness characteristics. Twelve comments stated that approximately 14,800 acres possess the naturalness characteristic. Two comments stated the unit lacks naturalness. Twelve comments stated that outstanding solitude and primitive recreation characteristics exist while two comments state that the solitude characteristic is not present in the unit.

4. DECISION: A portion of this unit, 14,830 acres, is identified a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Most of the comments supported the conclusions reached in the Summary Narratives for each of the wilderness characteristics in this unit. Comments generally agreed that the area proposed as a WSA is without significant impacts of man and that topography and vegetation within that area provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Comments concurred that hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and other primitive recreation activities are present in the diversity and quality required of an outstanding opportunity.

Those comments disagreeing with the WSA proposal addressed the naturalness and solitude characteristics, but did not address the primitive recreation characteristic. The information in the disagreeing comments either had been taken into account as part of the WSA proposal or addressed situations outside of the unit or outside of the scope of the inventory guidelines. Therefore, a portion of the unit qualifies for wilderness study due to the presence of the naturalness and outstanding solitude and primitive recreation characteristics.


MOQUITH MOUNTAIN
UT-040-217
WSA Proposal
1 Mile
WSA
Monument Knoll
Yellowjacket Spring
Sand Spring
Cottonwood Canyon
Moquith Mountains
Cliff Dwelling
Cave
Spring
DUNES
SAND

UNIT NO.: UT-040-230 WSA ACREAGE: 30,800

UNIT NAME: PARUNUWEAP CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 47,696

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit includes that portion of the East Fork of the Virgin River between Mt. Carmel Junction and Zion National Park. The northern boundary is at private lands south of U-15 above the White Cliffs. The south boundary generally follows improved roads in Elephant Cove and on the Block Mesas.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 47,696 acres of public lands. The area possessing wilderness characteristics contains 30,800 acres of public lands and encloses 1,280 acres of state lands.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. The impacts are limited to the benches to the north and flats to the south of the main Parunuweap Canyon. In the north, intrusions include numerous unmaintained wood hauling ways, surface disturbances associated with coal fire suppression, and two small chainings. The cumulative effect of ways, fences and reservoirs is substantially noticeable and intrudes upon naturalness in the north and southwest portion of the unit. Several ways penetrate into the thick pinyon-juniper stands north of the Block Mesas, and include a dune buggy trail from Elephant Cove to the Foote Ranch. These ways are substantially unnoticeable and active sand dunes often cover the existing trails. Within the unit boundary 30,800 acres are considered to possess naturalness, and 16,896 acres contain substantially noticeable imprints of man.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are present in the entrenched canyons of the Parunuweap. The terrain on the benches is heavily bisected by canyons and moderately vegetated with ponderosa pine and pinyon-juniper forest. Several access points to the canyon system disperse use within the unit. The nature of the topography and abundance of vegetation enhance the opportunity for persons to seek out and find isolation.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for many types of primitive and unconfined recreation such as backpacking, hunting, rock climbing, birdwatching, photography and sightseeing. The canyons offer spectacular backpacking opportunities. The canyon bottoms offer challenge, excellent scenery, and superb camping areas. Fresh water is abundant in numerous springs. Exploration and technical rock climbing opportunities are available in the side canyons.

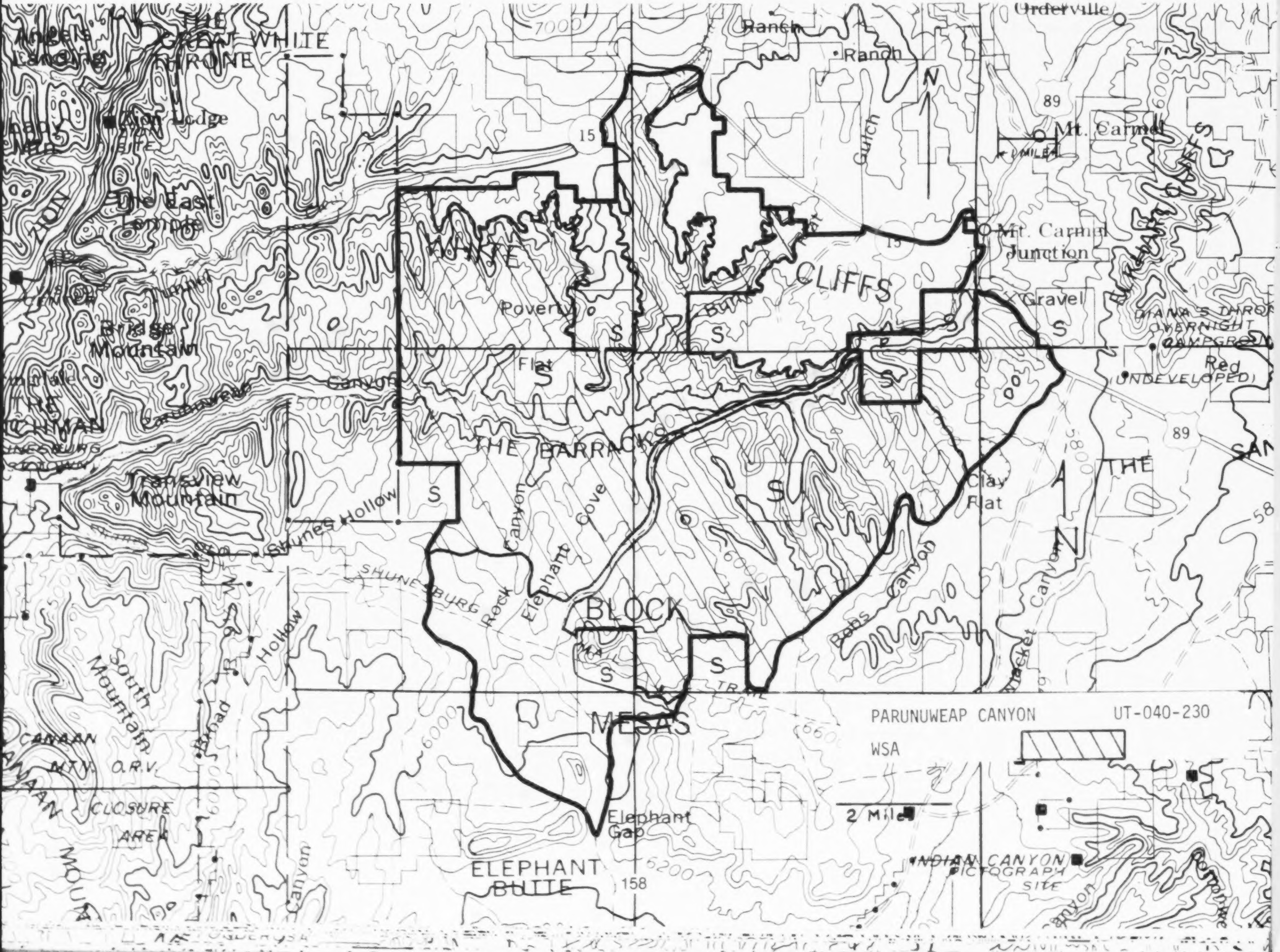
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit has numerous supplemental values including botanical, geological, historical, archeological and scenic features.

A more detailed description of wilderness characteristics is contained in the permanent documentation file.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: The public submitted fifteen comments containing information relating to wilderness characteristics. Eleven comments stated that approximately 30,800 acres possess the naturalness characteristic. Two comments stated that the entire unit lacks naturalness. Eleven comments maintained that outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation exist in the area. Three comments stated that the unit lacks the solitude and primitive recreation characteristics.

4. DECISION: 30,800 acres of this unit are designated a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Most comments supported the presence of wilderness characteristics within the unit. While some comments were rather general in their content, other comments addressed areas within the unit specifically. Almost all comments agreed that wilderness characteristics exist in Parunuweap Canyon itself, and several comments stated that 30,800 acres are natural. Other areas within the unit are mentioned as having wilderness characteristics including Elephant Cove, the canyons north of the Block Mesas, and other side canyons along the East Fork Virgin River. Some comments disagreed with the above points of view stating that imprints of man's work are located throughout the unit and impact both naturalness and solitude. However, a number of intrusions mentioned in these comments were previously identified in inventory documentation or are only provided with general locations. The situation involving the dune buggy trail mentioned in the Summary Narrative on naturalness as existing between Elephant Cove and the Foote Ranch requires clarification. The portion of the trail west from the Foote Ranch running approximately three miles through Sections 3, 4, 5, and 8, T42S, R8W is substantially unnoticeable as stated in the Summary Narrative. The remainder of the trail is a noticeable way from NW¼ Section 8, T42S, R8W running south and southwest for about 4.5 miles to the boundary of the proposed WSA. This imprint of man is cherry-stemmed along the noticeable portion of the way and is not within the portion of the unit possessing naturalness. This situation should have been reflected in the Summary Narrative published in the Proposed WSA - April 1980 book. Evaluation of imprints of man's work within the unit has resulted in the determination that 30,800 acres of this unit have naturalness and that outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation exist within that area, thus qualifying the area for wilderness study.



PARUNUWEAP CANYON
UT-040-230
WSA
2 Mile
THE GREAT WHITE THRONE
Zion Lodge
The East Temple
Bridge Mountain
Transview Mountain
South Mountain
CANAAN MTN. O.R.V. CLOSURE AREA
WHITE CLIFFS
Poverty
Flat
THE BARRACKS
Elephant Cove
Canyon
Rock
BLOCK
MESAS
Elephant Gap
ELEPHANT BUTTE
INDIAN CANYON PICTOGRAPH SITE
Bobs Canyon
Clay Flat
Bracket Canyon
Shunes Hollow
Broad Hollow
Gulch
Ranch
Orderville
Mt. Carmel
Mt. Carmel Junction
Gravel
DIANA'S THROAT OVERNIGHT CAMPGROUND
Red (UNDEVELOPED)
THE
89
15
158

UNIT NO.: UT-040-235 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: FLOOD CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 29,709

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located ten miles east of Kanab in Kane County. It consists of a portion of the Vermilion Cliffs and the canyons cutting into the cliffs.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 29,709 acres of public land and encloses 640 acres of state land and 40 acres of private land.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit consists of a plateau running southwest-northeast which is cut by several canyons from the south, west and east. The bulk of the plateau is criss-crossed by a maze of dirt ways. One such way comes up Seaman Wash from the east, climbs to the top of the plateau and joins other ways. Another enters Flood Canyon itself from the top. There are several spring developments and associated ways. Wood cutting has taken place throughout the unit.

Two areas within the unit are natural. They are separated from each other by the Seaman Wash way. North of Seaman Wash, 13,890 acres are natural. To the south, 12,760 acres were found to be natural. A total of 26,650 acres are natural.

Extensive post-FLPMA impacts consisting of "ways" and drill pads were constructed by Exxon Corporation in the summer of 1979. These impacts were not considered in the evaluation of this unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The opportunity for solitude is limited by the topography and widespread nature of human impacts. The bulk of the unit is a sparsely vegetated plateau containing a maze of dirt vehicular ways. Of the two major canyons, Flood Canyon has vehicle access to its head and Seaman Wash has a way running its length.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Several types of primitive and unconfined recreation are available in the unit. Among these are hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting and nature study. The widespread nature of the human impacts precludes the possibility of these activities offering an outstanding primitive recreational experience.

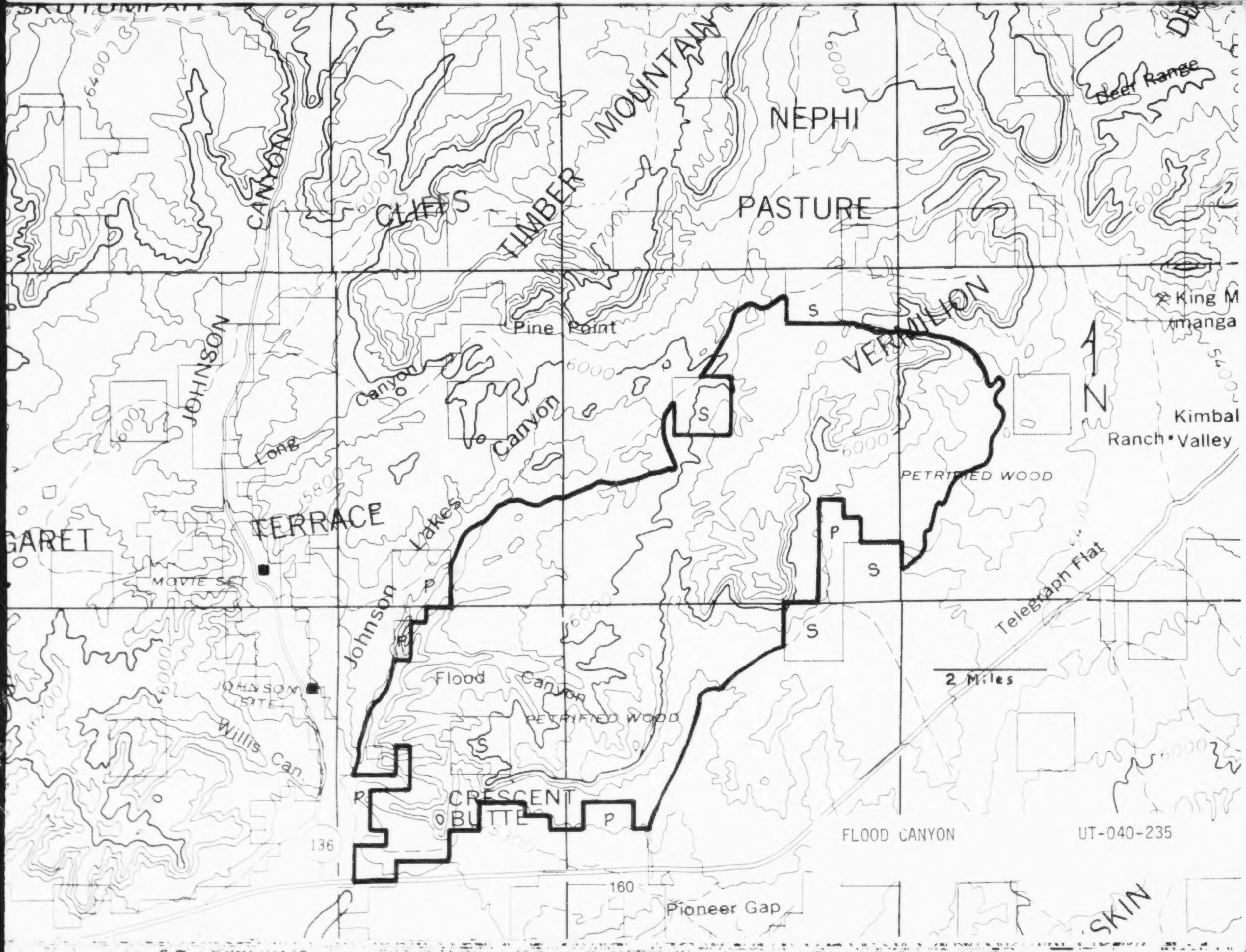
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Cliff dwellings and dinosaur tracks are present. A Powell Survey Monument is also located within the unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments were received on this unit which address wilderness characteristics. Two comments agree with the determination that 26,650 acres possess the naturalness criteria and two comments disagree. All comments agreed that the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

4. DECISION: The unit does not qualify for wilderness study.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the comments on naturalness are general in nature. The physical improvements or activities mentioned in the comments have been identified in the Summary Narrative. Specific locations were not given in the comments so a determination could not be made as to whether information additional to that documented in the intensive inventory has been provided. The existence of a reservoir in the middle of the unit could not be verified.

The comments on outstanding opportunities do not provide new information but do confirm the Summary Narrative conclusions. There is no disagreement that the unit does not possess the wilderness characteristics necessary for further study.


NEPHI
PASTURE
TIMBER
MOUNTAIN
CLIFFS
CANYON
JOHNSON
TERRACE
VERMILION
Deer Range
Pine Point
Canyon
Long
Lakes
Johnson
MOVIE SET
JOHNSON SITE
Willis Can.
Flood
Canyon
PETRIFIED WOOD
CRESCENT
BUTTE
Kimbal
Ranch
Valley
Telegraph Flat
2 Miles
FLOOD CANYON
UT-040-235
Pioneer Gap
SKIN
136
160
N

UNIT NO.: UT-040-245 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: BRIGHAM PLAINS UNIT ACREAGE: 16,500

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is located between the Cockscomb and Coyote Creek drainage on the southern extreme of the Kaiparowits Plateau. It encompasses Brigham Plains.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 16,500 acres of public land and encloses 1,276 acres of State land.

B. NATURALNESS: The imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable throughout the majority of the inventory unit. The only development which has a significant impact upon the naturalness of the unit is the 230 KV Glen Canyon-Sigurd powerline in the southern and northwestern portions of the unit. Other man-made developments in the unit are small facilities associated with livestock grazing and are considered to be substantially unnoticeable. The portion of the inventory unit possessing naturalness contains 15,660 acres of public land.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Topography within the inventory unit is divided between the flats on Brigham Plains and under the rim and the rim or cliffline of Brigham Plains itself. A significant variation in the topography of the inventory unit exists only along the cliffline where ridges descending to the lower flats could provide some isolation. Vegetation consists of grasses, low growing shrubs, and scattered pinyon and juniper at the higher elevations on Brigham Plains while vegetation at the lower elevations is very limited and seldom grows more than 6 inches in height. The poor quality of factors necessary for screening and seclusion are such that any opportunity for solitude in the inventory unit could not be considered as outstanding.

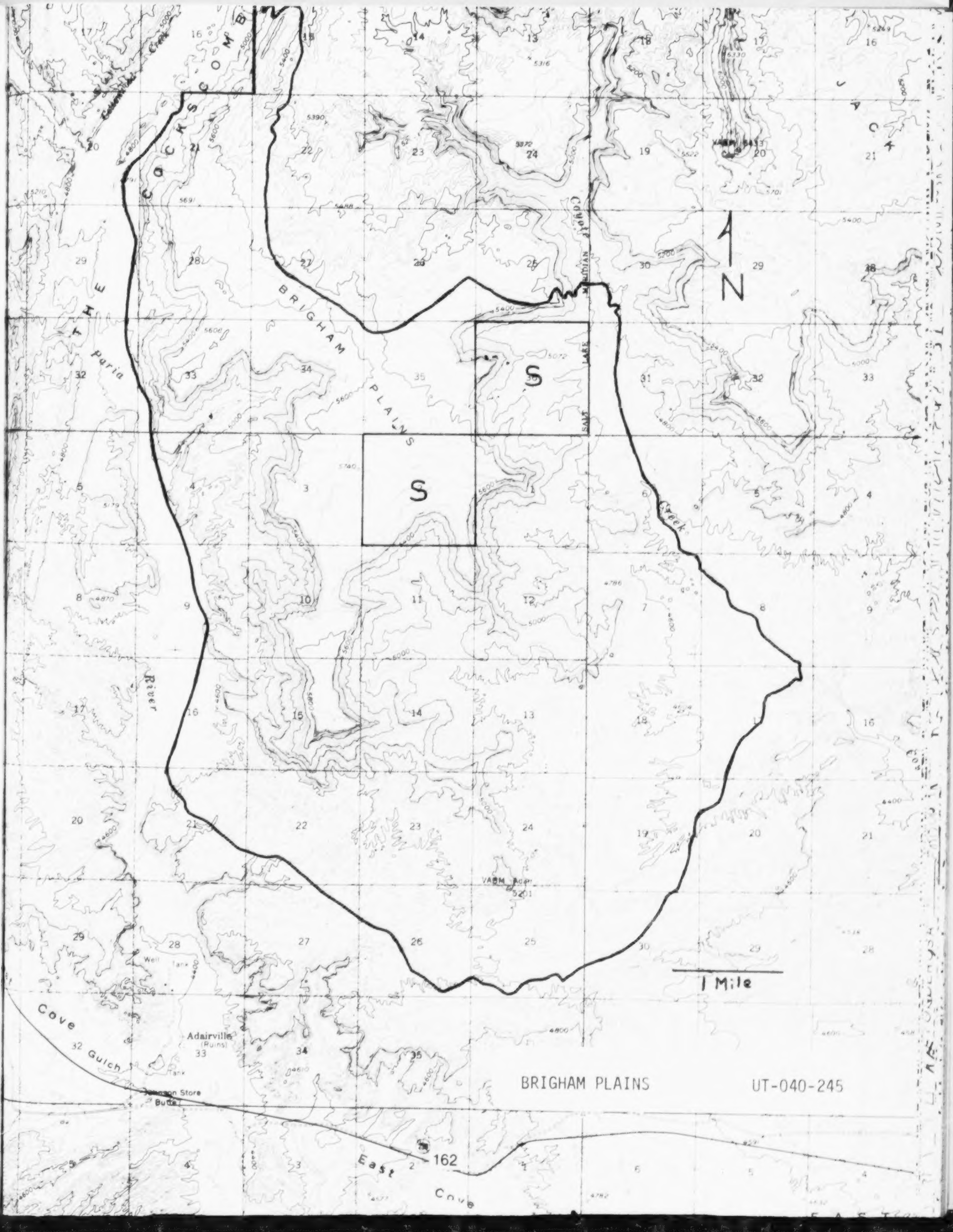
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding are the major primitive recreational opportunities in the inventory unit. Neither the diversity of activities available nor the quality of any one activity is sufficient to consider the unit to possess outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Some geological and ecological supplemental values are present in the inventory unit. Minor paleontological features in the form of fossilized sharks' teeth exist in the Tropic Shale formation in the area. Two threatened plants are known only to grow on the Tropic Shale formation in the area. These are Cymopterus higginsii and Heliomerus soliceps.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Eight comments were received which discuss wilderness characteristics. Two comments agree with the determination that 15,660 acres contain the naturalness characteristic. Six comments argue that all or a portion of the unit lacks naturalness. All comments agree that one or both outstanding characteristics are absent in the unit.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The majority of comments on the naturalness characteristic disagreed with the Summary Narrative. The disagreements involve the impact of developments along the periphery of the unit and do not involve the large central portion determined to contain naturalness. No assessment was made to verify these comments because there was no disagreement with the BLM determination that the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. As such the unit does not possess the wilderness characteristics necessary for further study.



BRIGHAM PLAINS UT-040-245

UNIT NO.: UT-040-246 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: NEPHI WASH UNIT ACREAGE: 13,350

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit encompasses a portion of the Vermilion Cliffs and is located approximately 25 miles northeast of Kanab. The area includes a portion of Deer Spring Wash and is bounded on the west by Fin Little Wash and on the east by Park Wash.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 13,350 acres of public land and encloses approximately 640 acres of state land and 160 acres of private land.

B. NATURALNESS: Intrusions in the unit consist of fences, ways, and part of a chaining. The fences and ways do not significantly impair naturalness. Most of the ways have been used infrequently and are now difficult to travel. The fences are effectively screened until within close proximity. The chaining, located in the southern portion of the unit, has destroyed naturalness as the imprint of man's work is dominant in this area. The influence of the chaining is limited because it is located at the base of the Vermilion Cliffs and, therefore, screened from the remainder of the inventory unit.

With deletion of the chained area the remaining 13,090 public land acres in this unit have a natural appearance.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The Nephi Wash inventory unit is bisected by one relatively straight canyon, Deer Springs Wash. A few minor tributary canyons, most of which are less than one mile in length are located on either side of Deer Springs Wash. The benchlands above the canyons are relatively flat or, in some areas, rolling with small hills. Given a small amount of human activity within the unit there would be an opportunity for people to avoid sights and evidence of others to some degree and thereby experience some level of solitude. However, the configuration of the canyon system does not lend itself to outstanding opportunities for solitude. Main access points to nearly all of the canyons inside the unit are found within Deer Springs Wash which greatly increases the chance of human encounter. On the benchlands, the interrelationship of natural screening and relatively small amount of area is such that the dispersion of human activity would be minimal and therefore would not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude in those portions of the unit.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit provides opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, and horseback riding. Of these activities, hiking offers the best unconfined recreation opportunity. Hiking could occur because the canyons found in the unit appear to provide the opportunity for sight seeing or the sense of discovery associated with exploring an area for which there is little readily available information. These canyons tributary to Deer Springs Wash are short and not very deep. Further, they lack obstacles to travel which offer challenge or risks. These characteristics prevent rating hiking opportunities as outstanding.

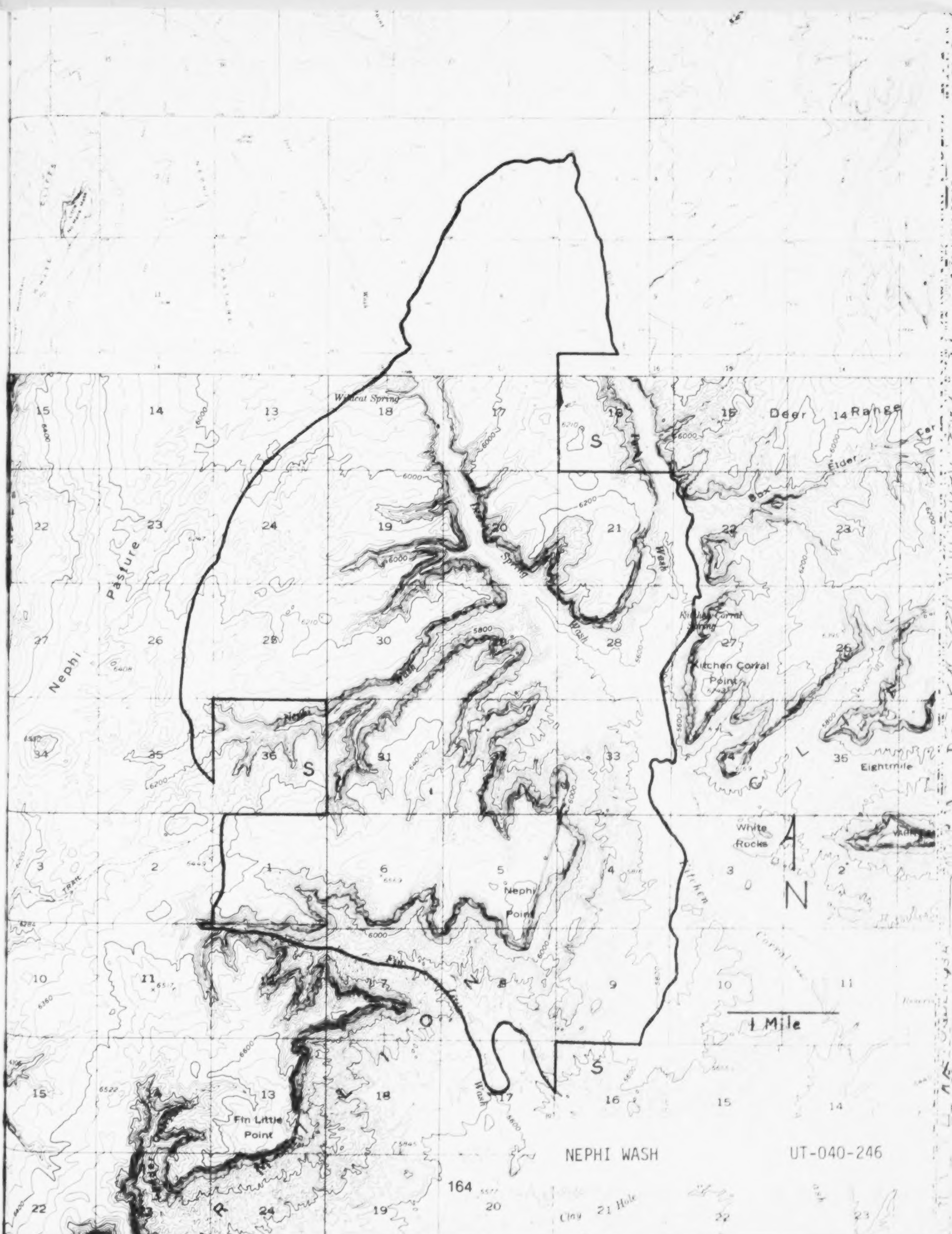
The area does not possess outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation either through the diversity in the number of primitive and unconfined recreational activities possible in the inventory unit or the outstanding quality of one opportunity.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: No supplemental values of significance were observed during field examination of the unit. A formation containing petrified wood occurs in the unit. However, no actual finds are known. There are petroglyph panels in Kitchen Corral Canyon so it is likely the unit contains some archaeological sites. A few chipping sites were observed during field work. While the unit probably contains supplemental values, they are not likely to be significant. The Vermilion Cliffs have been rated as Class A scenery, using the BLM Visual Resource Management System.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments were received which address wilderness characteristics. One comment agreed and three comments disagreed with the BLM determination that 13,090 acres possess the naturalness characteristic. All four comments agreed that the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

4. DECISION: The unit does not qualify for wilderness study.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The Summary Narrative recognizes the existence of ways, fences, and range improvements within the unit. The comments which address naturalness provide no detailed information about additional intrusions or assess the impact of intrusions upon naturalness except the chaining located on the southern portion of the unit. This chaining was determined in the Summary Narrative to have destroyed a portion of the naturalness of the unit. A portion of the unit contains naturalness, however, the outstanding solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation characteristics are not present. All comments agree that one or both of these wilderness characteristics are absent from the unit.



Wildcat Spring
Deer
Range
Box
Elder
Nephi
Pasture
Kitchen Corral Spring
Kitchen Corral Point
Eightmile
White Rocks
Nephi Point
Fin Little Point
1 Mile
N
164
NEPHI WASH
UT-040-246

UNIT NO.: UT-040-247 WSA ACREAGE: 135,822

UNIT NAME: PARIA-HACKBERRY UNIT ACREAGE: 196,431

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit encompasses the Paria and Hackberry drainages between Highway 89 and Cannonville in Kane County.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: This unit contains 196,431 acres of public lands and encloses 14,420 acres of State land. The 600 acres Nipple Ranch and road is exterior to the unit boundary. The size of the area containing wilderness characteristics is 148,548 acres of public land.

B. NATURALNESS: The vast majority of the unit appears to be affected by the forces of nature. The majority of the imprints of man are limited to the bench lands north of the Paria-Hackberry drainages, south of the Vermilion Cliffs, on the Cockscomb south of the Paria Box, in Nephi Pasture, and along the Skutumpah road. The naturalness boundary was drawn on the physical disturbance of the imprints of man and on legal descriptions for cumulative impact. A more detailed account of the naturalness is found in the unit permanent file and the April 1980 Intensive Wilderness Inventory report.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available in the area outlined as natural. The large size of the unit (148,584 acres), the extremely varied and rugged terrain, and the vegetative screening all combine to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Each of the major drainages contain numerous side canyons, which offer equally outstanding solitude opportunities.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined recreation abound in the unit. The diversity of different opportunities include backpacking, horseback riding, rock-climbing, sightseeing (notably geologic), photography, rockhounding for petrified wood and agate, and hunting. There are hundreds of miles of potential hiking trails in the canyons of the Paria-Hackberry.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There is a wide variety of supplemental values. No Mans Mesa is identified as a plant relict area and has been recommended as a research natural area. The geologic sightseeing opportunities include numerous arches and natural bridges, and erosional features. The unit is rich in archeological and historical features and encompasses a large portion of an area long recognized in the Bureau's planning system as possessing primitive area qualities. Three Threatened and Endangered plants have been identified within the unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Thirty-nine comments provided specific information about wilderness characteristics. Ten comments expressed agreement with the BLM rationale that 150,080 acres possess the naturalness characteristic. Twenty-six comments stated that additional areas possess naturalness. Seventeen comments stated that the Boot (the southeastern extension of the unit containing the Cockscomb and West Cove) is natural. Six comments stated that various portions of the unit lack naturalness and three comments stated that the unit lacks naturalness in its entirety. Twenty-six comments stated that the unit possesses the outstanding solitude characteristic and/or the outstanding primitive recreation characteristic. Two comments stated that the unit lacks outstanding solitude and primitive recreation opportunities.

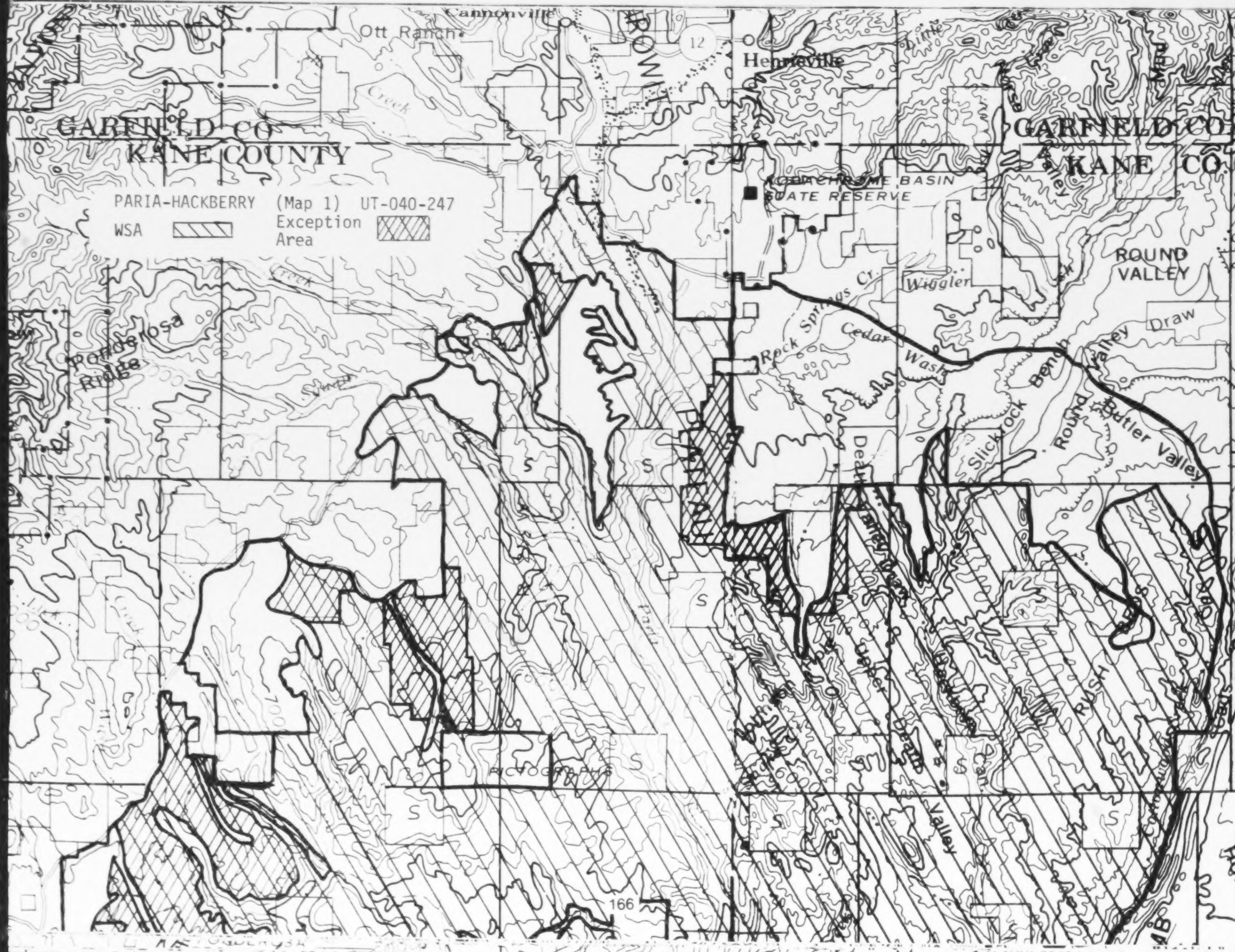
4. DECISION: A portion of this unit, 135,822 acres, is identified as a WSA. Because of new information received during the comment period, 1,532 acres were determined to lack naturalness and are deleted.

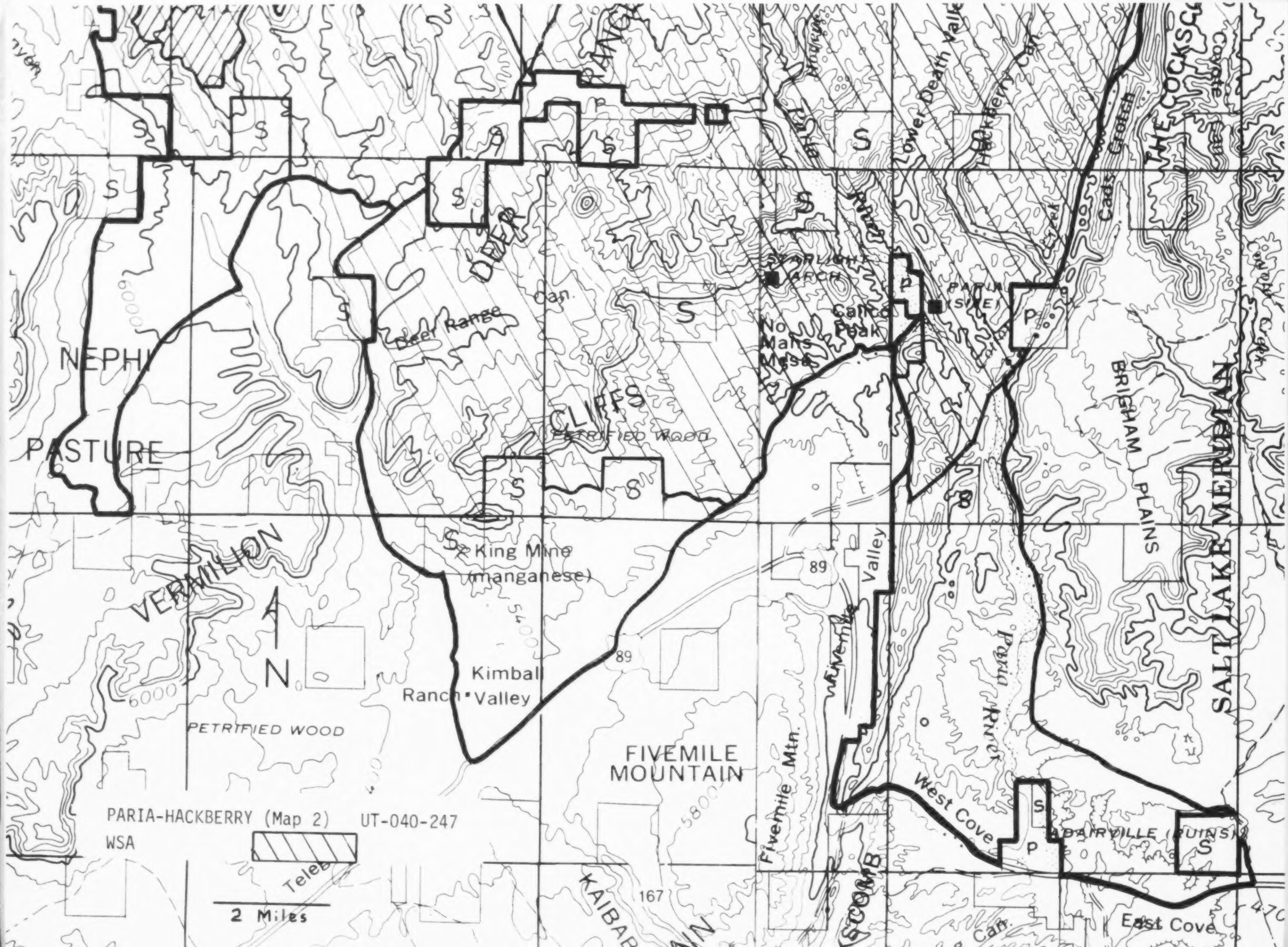
5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: There is general agreement in the comments with the Summary Narrative conclusions on wilderness characteristics. However, there is significant disagreement with the naturalness determination about the "Boot" which is that portion of the unit containing the Cockscomb and West Cove extending to the south and east. A number of comments maintain that extremely rugged topography found in the Cockscomb within the unit renders the imprints of man substantially unnoticeable. Several comments also addressed the Boot in terms of outstanding solitude and primitive recreation opportunities citing that those characteristics are present in the Boot. Some comments agreed in a general way with the Summary Narrative on naturalness that the Boot does not possess that characteristic.

Because the Summary Narrative conclusion on naturalness proposed that the Boot lacks the naturalness characteristic, the outstanding solitude and primitive recreation characteristics within the Boot were not evaluated. The area must first possess the naturalness characteristic before the inventory of the other characteristics occurs. The Summary Narrative on naturalness concludes that the area of the Boot does not meet the naturalness criteria because the intrusions in the Boot have a cumulative effect upon the naturalness of that portion of the unit.

In the remainder of the unit, most of the comments addressing the naturalness characteristic agreed with the Summary Narrative conclusion. Portions of the unit where disagreement occurred have been adjusted when comment verification indicated that naturalness was lacking. Only three comments contended that the unit lacks naturalness in its entirety. It is determined that the Boot does not possess the naturalness characteristic and that an area of 148,548 acres within the remainder of the inventory unit meets the naturalness criteria.

Comments on the outstanding solitude and primitive recreation opportunities for the remainder of the unit were largely in agreement with the Summary Narrative of these characteristics. However, an exception to OAD 78-61, Change 3, was granted by the Director to delete 12,726 acres from the benches above the White Cliffs. Although these areas possess the naturalness characteristic, they have been determined to lack the outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation wilderness characteristics.


PARIA-HACKBERRY (Map 1) UT-040-247
WSA
Exception Area
GARFIELD CO
KANE COUNTY
KANE CO.
Cannonville
Ott Ranch
Henrieville
12
STATE RESERVE
ROUND VALLEY
Wiggler
Rock Springs Cr.
Cedar Wash
Slickrock Bench
Round Valley
Butler Valley
Draw
Ponderosa Ridge
Creek
Paria
PLATEAU
RUSH
Death Valley Draw
Upper Death Valley
Hackberry Can
PICTOGRAPHS
166


PARIA-HACKBERRY (Map 2) UT-040-247
WSA
2 Miles
SALT LAKE MERIDIAN
BRIGHAM PLAINS
THE COCKSCOMB
Cads Crotch
Lower Death Valley
Hackberry Can.
Paria River
Starlight Arch
Paria (site)
Calico Peak
No Mans Mesa
CLIFFS
PETRIFIED WOOD
Deer Range
Can.
NEPHI
PASTURE
VERMILION
King Mine (manganese)
Kimbal Ranch
Valley
FIVEMILE MOUNTAIN
Fivemile Mtn.
Fivemile Valley
West Cove
East Cove
Pairyville (Ruins)
89
167
6000
5400
5800
N

UNIT NO.: UT-040-248 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: WAHWEAP UNIT ACREAGE: 137,980

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located on the Kaiparowits Plateau north of Glen Canyon City. It extends on the south almost to Highway 89 and is bounded by Cottonwood Canyon on the west, the road from Grosvenor Arch to Horse Mountain on the north, and the Smokey Mountain-Head of the Creeks roads on the east.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 137,980 acres of public land and encloses approximately 12,800 acres of State land.

B. NATURALNESS: With the exception of a limited number of areas around the perimeter of the unit, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. The unit boundary was adjusted to legal subdivisions in accordance with OAD 78-61, change 2 (p. 5) to exclude non-natural areas when cumulative effects were present and it was impossible to relocate the boundary to the physical edge of any one imprint. The remaining impacts determined to impair naturalness do not have a cumulative impact and the unit boundary has been located at the edge of the physical disturbance. The unit possesses a natural area containing 134,400 acres of public land.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Because of its relatively large size, this unit inherently possesses opportunity for solitude. The quality of this opportunity varies with the different topographic forms found in the unit. On the flat upper bench areas such as Four Mile Bench and Horse Flat, the opportunity for solitude is limited because of the flatness of the terrain. The pinyon-juniper forest cover on the benches does not offer superior visual screening on this terrain. The upper benches are cut by major canyons of the Coyote, Wahweap, and Warm Creek drainages. These canyons include Wesses, Clints, John Henry, Smith Run, Wahweap, Tommy, and Coyote Canyons. The canyons and the cliff-lines separating them are characterized by high barren walls and escarpments. Most of the canyon bottoms possess wide and open floors. There is little vegetative cover in this area. Because of the openness of this terrain, the opportunity for the user to find a secluded spot or to screen himself from other users is not as great as in nearby areas where the canyon systems include more entrenched and meandering canyons and heavily vegetated canyon bottoms. Although an opportunity for solitude is present, it is judged to be the equivalent of opportunities in other topographies of its kind. The solitude opportunity could not be considered to be superior to other similar opportunities. The lower portion of this unit contains Jack Riggs Bench, Snow Bench, a portion of the Wahweap Canyon system, and the eroded Dakota sandstone formations in Coyote and Wahweap Creeks. Vegetative cover is extremely sparse in this area and offers no screening to users. The bench and canyon terrain is not sufficiently rough and dissected to provide other than moderate topographic screening. The Dakota sandstone formations offer better screening, but their area is too limited to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The Cads Crotch-Cockscomb area in the extreme western portion of the unit is very prominent, linear, ridge and valley feature. Opportunities for solitude are present within the ridgeline of the Cockscomb, but in most places visitors would be aware of other visitors either on the Cockscomb or in Cads Crotch.

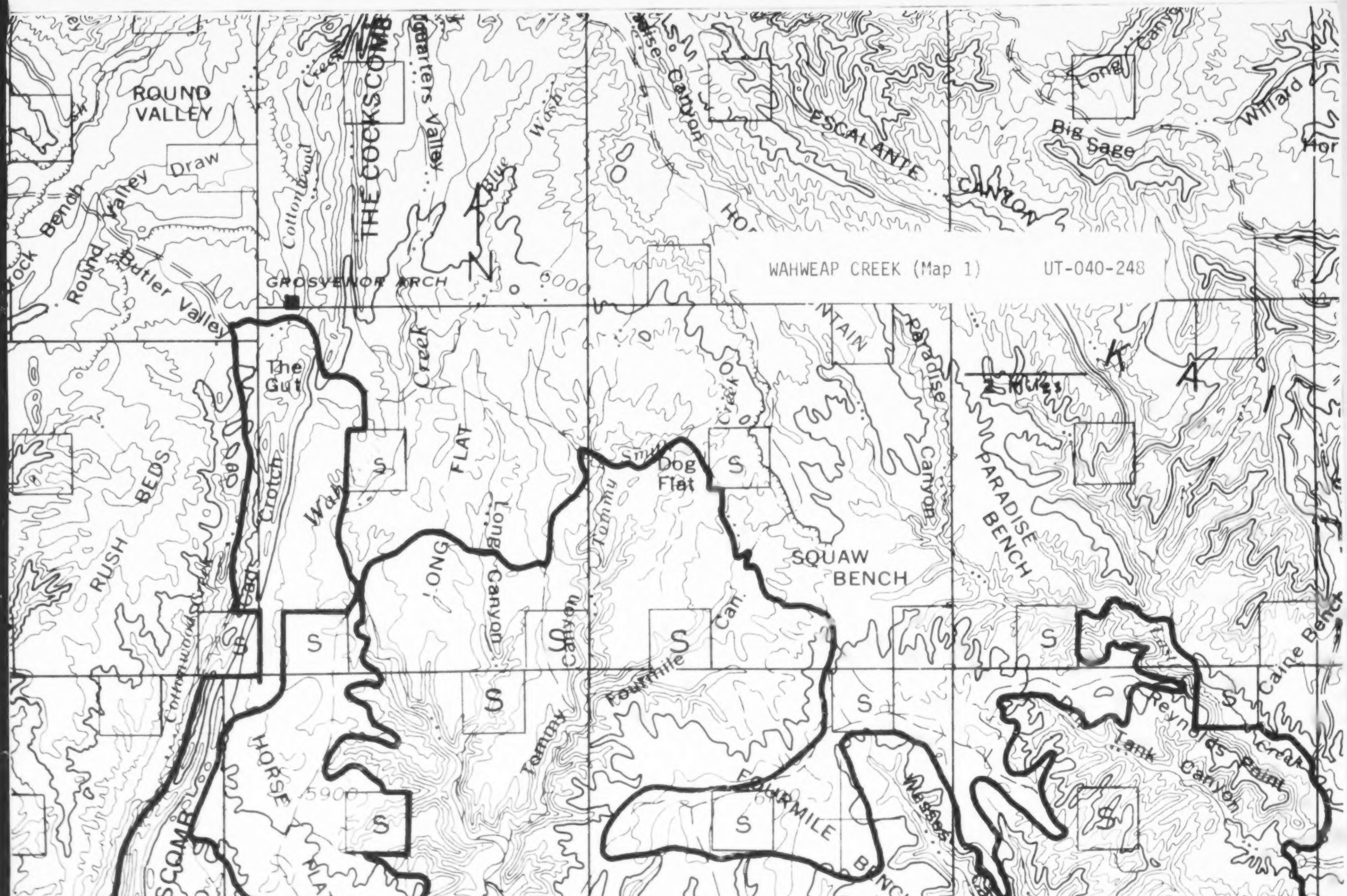
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit lacks a diversity in the number of primitive and unconfined recreational activities available to users. Hiking and backpacking are possible in any unit of this size, but this unit offers no unusual or unique backpacking opportunities. Opportunities for sightseeing are not of outstanding individual quality. The unit does not meet the criteria for outstanding primitive recreation opportunities.

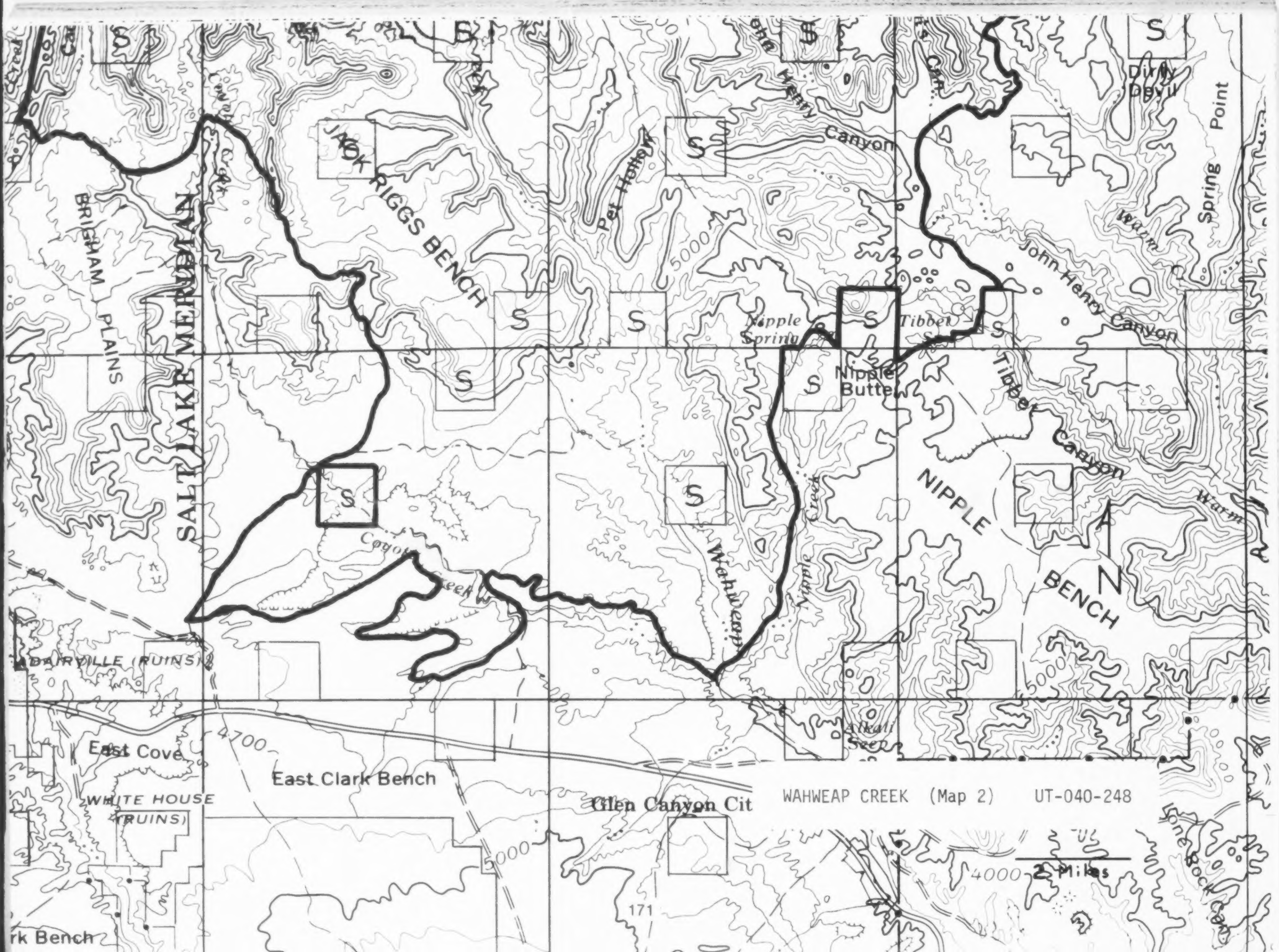
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit exhibits scenic, geologic values, old Juniper trees, and Threatened plants. A detailed description is in Utah Proposed Wilderness Study Areas, April 1980.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Fifty-seven comments containing information relative to wilderness characteristics in this unit were submitted. Thirty-four comments stated that approximately 134,000 acres of the unit possess the naturalness characteristic. Six comments stated either that the unit lacks naturalness or that less than 134,000 acres are natural. Forty-one comments stated that outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation exist within the unit. Seven comments stated that outstanding solitude and primitive recreation characteristics are lacking in the unit.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation do not meet the criteria for outstanding as these criteria are defined in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook. No consensus about opportunities for solitude or for primitive recreation existed in the comments. In particular, although several detailed comments agree with the original proposal's evaluation that the topographic and vegetative screening are not superior, the majority of the comments argue that this landscape intrinsically offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and that outstanding solitude is available, by definition, in units of this size. Reexamination of the inventory data for this unit and further visual inspections both indicate that the original evaluations of wilderness characteristics are accurate descriptions of the unit. A detailed decision rationale is in the permanent unit file.


WAHWEAP CREEK (Map 1)
UT-040-248
ROUND VALLEY
Draw
Round Valley
Butler Valley
GROSVENOR ARCH
THE COCKSCOMB
Cottonwood
Blue
Wash
ESCALANTE
CANYON
Big Sage
Willard
Long
The Gut
Crotch
Wash
RUSH
BEDS
LONG
FLAT
Long Canyon
Tommy
Dog Flat
Creek
Paradise
Canyon
PARADISE BENCH
SQUAW BENCH
Can.
Fourmile
HORSE
FLAT
FOURMILE BENCH
Wesses
Canyon
Reynolds Point
Tank Canyon
Caine Bench
Ship Mtn. Pt.
Pilot
Coyote
Wahweap
S
170
5900
6000


WAHWEAP CREEK (Map 2) UT-040-248
2 Miles
SALT LAKE MERIDIAN
JACK RIGGS BENCH
BRIGHAM PLAINS
NIPPLE BENCH
John Henry Canyon
Tibbet Canyon
Nipple Butte
Nipple Spring
Pet Hollow
Wahweap
Nipple Creek
Coyote Creek
Spring Point
Dirty Devil
Lone Rock Can
Alkali Seep
East Clark Bench
East Cove
WHITE HOUSE (RUINS)
DAIRYVILLE (RUINS)
Glen Canyon Cit
4700
5000
4000
171

UNIT NUMBER: UT-040-249 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: COYOTE CREEK UNIT ACREAGE: 9,840

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit lies east of the Cockscomb and generally encompasses the Coyote Creek drainage below the Kaiparowits Plateau. The western portion of Jack Riggs Bench is also located in the unit. The unit is located in Kane County.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 9,840 acres of public land and encloses 640 acres of State land.

B. NATURALNESS: With a few minor exceptions the imprints of man's work is substantially unnoticeable throughout the unit. Imprints are limited to earthen reservoirs located close to the boundary road. There is one penetrating road in the southeastern portion of the unit. Approximately 9,840 acres of public land in the unit are natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The unit contains a portion of Coyote Creek and tributaries which are substantial canyons cut into Brigham Plains and Jack Riggs Bench. The benchlands are open and relatively flat. The vegetation cover consists of sage flats separated by scattered pinyon and juniper.

The canyons in the unit offer topographic screening but this is limited by their short length and open character. Sparse vegetative cover is characteristic in the canyons and lower elevations.

The low values of topographic and vegetative screening reduce opportunities for solitude in the unit below that considered outstanding.

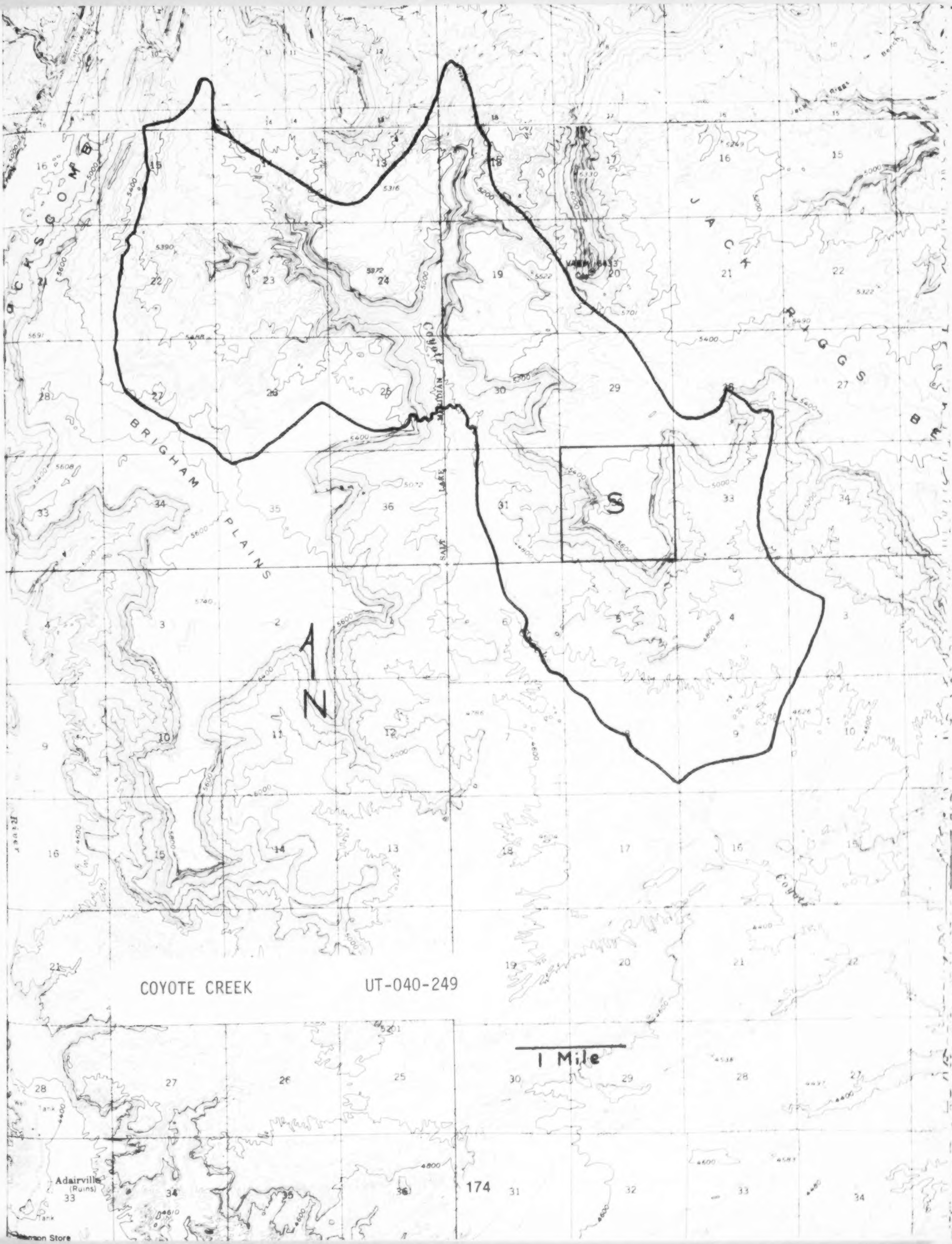
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit offers hiking, backpacking, and sightseeing opportunities. While available, these activities lack challenge and variety. Neither the diversity of activities nor the quality of any one activity is sufficient to say that the unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit possesses paleontological and botanical values in the exposed Tropic Shale formation. Fossilized shark teeth are found in this formation as well as the threatened plants Cymopterus higginsii and Heliomerus soliceps.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Seven comments were received which discussed the wilderness characteristics of the unit. Two comments agree that 9,840 acres contain the naturalness characteristic, two disagree, and three argue an area smaller than identified in the Summary Narrative is natural. All comments agree that one or both outstanding characteristics are absent in the unit.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The majority of the comments agree that the unit contains the naturalness characteristic. There are disagreements with the Summary Narrative determination of the naturalness boundary. The disagreements involve the impact of developments along the periphery of the unit and do not involve the large control portion determined to contain naturalness. No assessment was made to verify these comments because there was no disagreement with the BLM determination that the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. As such the unit does not possess the wilderness characteristics necessary for further study.


COYOTE CREEK
UT-040-249
1 Mile
N
BRIGHAM PLAINS
Adairville
(Ruins)
Tank

UNIT NUMBER: UT-040-[illegible] WSA Acreage: 0

UNIT NAME: UPPER KANAB CREEK Unit Acreage: 61,430

1. AREA DESCRIPTION. This unit lies east of US-89 and south and west of the towns of Orderville and Glendale in Kane County. Johnson Canyon road on the east and the road on John R. Flat on the south make up the boundary.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit contains 61,430 acres of public land and encloses approximately 5,760 acres of State land and 2,400 acres of private land.

B. NATURALNESS: A portion of the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. The unit boundary was adjusted to legal subdivisions in accordance with OAD 78-61 (Wilderness Inventory Handbook), Change 2 (p. 5), to exclude nonnatural areas when culmulative effects were present and it was impossible to relocate the boundary to the physical edge of any one imprint.

Large areas of the unit have been impacted by off-road vehicle use resulting in numerous trails and ways which cumulatively impair naturalness. This is particularly apparent on the benches above the White Cliffs, the area south of Red Canyon, and the northern portion of John R. Flat.

The White Cliffs and a portion of Kanab Creek are contained within the 42,210 public land acres possessing naturalness in the unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The White Cliffs divide the unit into two separate sections: the upper Glendale Bench and Skutumpah Terrace, and the lower Sand Hills and John R. Flat. Both sections offer opportunities for solitude which are limited by relatively flat terrain and open vegetation cover. Opportunities for solitude are better along the base of the White Cliffs and in the canyons cut into the cliff line. Canyons within the unit are not extensive and with the exception of Kanab Creek, are short. The large canyons (Kanab, Brown, and Swapp) are wide and open, while the remaining cliff line has limited topographic screening. The opportunity for avoiding contact with others in the unit, while not completely absent, is limited.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: While the unit offers primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities, they cannot be considered outstanding. Opportunities for hiking and backpacking are limited in both variety and challenge. Other activities are similarly lacking in quality.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The portion of White Cliffs found in the unit is highly scenic and colorful. In addition, there is evidence of volcanic activity (lava flows) found in Kanab Creek.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments were received on this unit which address the wilderness criteria. Two comments agree with the determination that 42,210 acres possess the naturalness characteristics. Two comments provide information on developments within the unit but do not make a naturalness recommendation. One comment disagrees and three agree with the outstanding solitude determination in the Summary Narrative. One comment agrees and one disagrees with the outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation determination in the Summary Narrative.

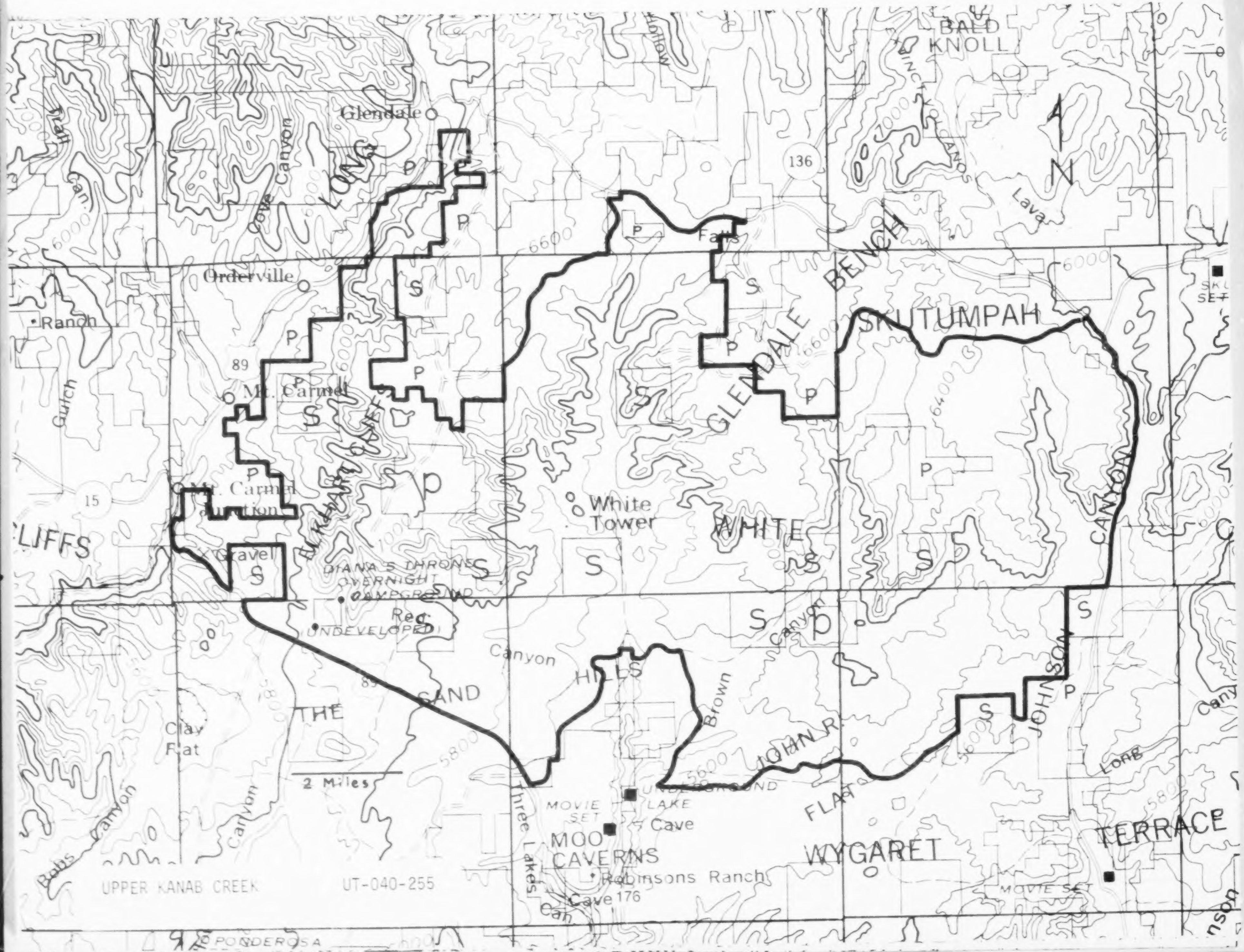
4. DECISION: The unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Most of the developments discussed in the comments which disagree with the Summary Narrative determination fail to provide information specific enough to be used for verification. The intensive inventory documented a way in Kanab Creek. However, this way ends before reaching Three or Four-Mile Canyons and was determined to be substantially unnoticeable.

The Summary Narrative recognizes that the unit offers the opportunity for solitude but argues that the topographic and vegetation screening is not sufficient for the opportunity to be outstanding. The comment in disagreement with the Summary Narrative does not address this analysis. Part of the comment discusses the scenic quality of the unit. Scenic quality was recognized as a supplemental value in the Summary Narrative because it is not a wilderness characteristic. One comment agreed with the analysis in the Summary Narrative that solitude opportunities are limited by topography and vegetation.

One comment disagreed with the determination that the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The comment is limited to a list of recreation activities which are available in the unit. Again, the scenic quality of the unit is emphasized. The Summary Narrative states that primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are available in the unit. It was determined that the unit lacks both variety and challenge in these activities and, therefore, opportunities are not outstanding

The comments on outstanding opportunities do not provide new information that would change the Summary Narrative determination.


BALD KNOLL
VOLCANOS
Lava
Glendale
LONG
136
Orderville
Ranch
Gulch
89
Mt. Carmel
Mt. Carmel Junction
15
CLIFFS
Gravel
Cove Canyon
Falls
GLENDALE BENCH
SKUTUMPAH
White Tower
WHITE
CANYON
DIANA'S THRONE OVERNIGHT CAMPGROUND
Rec. UNDEVELOPED
Canyon
HILLS
THE SAND
Brown
JOHN R.
JOHNSON
Clay Flat
2 Miles
Three Lakes
MOVIE SET
UNDERGROUND LAKE
Cave
MOQ CAVERNS
Robinsons Ranch
Cave 176
FLAT
WYGARET
TERRACE
MOVIE SET
Long
Babs Canyon
PONDEROSA
UPPER KANAB CREEK
UT-040-255

UNIT NO. UT-040-266 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: EAST OF BRYCE UNIT ACREAGE: 887

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit consists of part of a large mesa. The remainder of the mesa is in Bryce Canyon National Park. The cliffs rise up to 700 feet above the surrounding lands and several canyons are cut into the sides of the mesa. The unit is located directly north of Tropic, Utah.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 887 acres of public land. The unit is contiguous with lands in Bryce Canyon National Park which have been formally determined to have wilderness values. The unit consists of just over one-half of a mesa. The remainder of the mesa is located in Bryce Canyon National Park.

B. NATURALNESS: The only human imprint is a powerline running along Highway 54 (the unit's northeast boundary). This imprint is not substantially noticeable due to the dense vegetation and rugged topography.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The unit is fairly rugged and quite heavily forested on the mesa top. Bryce Canyon NPS personnel feel that the area of the unit and the Park wilderness proposal afford an outstanding opportunity for solitude. However, the unit itself does not exhibit natural screening opportunities that are superior to other areas on the rim of the Paunsaugunt Plateau.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit affords some opportunities for hiking/exploring and backpacking. The opportunities are not considered to be outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None known.

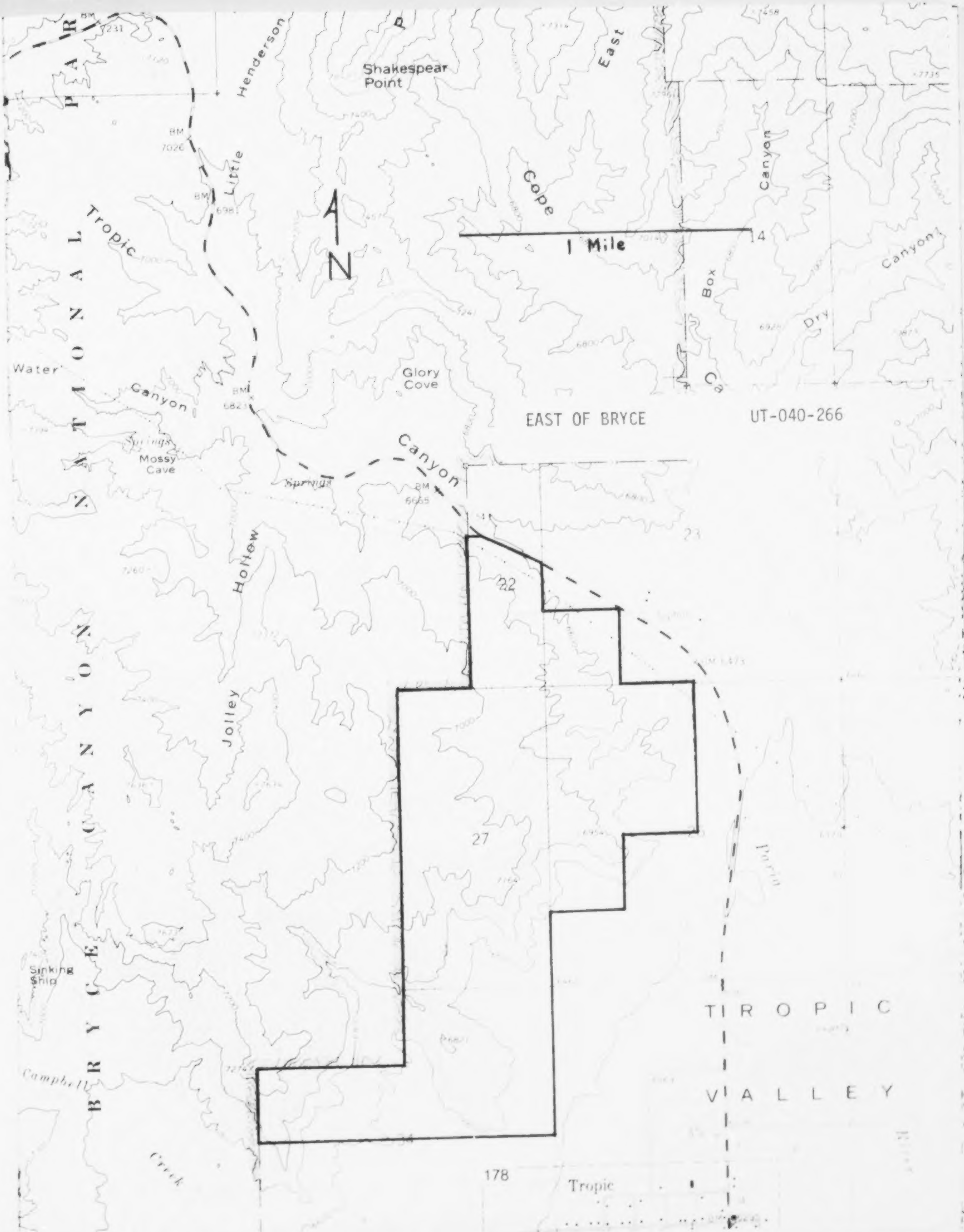
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Thirteen comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. Seven comments stated that 887 acres possessed the naturalness characteristic. Two comments stated that the unit lacked the naturalness characteristic. Ten comments stated that outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or outstanding individual primitive hiking recreational opportunities exist. Three comments stated that the unit lacked one or both of these characteristics.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Several comments indicated that the Summary Narrative and rationale were incorrect in evaluating the topographic screening and vegetative screening opportunities in relationship to Highway 12 because Highway 12 is an intrusion external to the unit.

These comments are correct and the unit was reevaluated. Further inspection of the unit indicates that the topography and vegetative cover would not satisfy the standard that it be conspicuous or superior to other similar areas on the east rim of the Paunsaugunt Plateau. Therefore, the unit lacks the outstanding opportunity for solitude characteristic.

No comments contended that a variety of recreational activities were present. However, several comments do state that the hiking opportunity is outstanding because of the presence of stock trails or diverse terrain. Other comments state that the hiking opportunity is outstanding because the unit provides entry to Bryce Canyon National Park. One comment argues that external scenic features make the hiking opportunity outstanding within the unit. None of the comments demonstrate that the hiking opportunity would be superior to that found in the adjacent National Park and the unit was judged to lack the outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation characteristic.



BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK
Tropic
Water Canyon
Springs
Mossy Cave
Little
Henderson
Shakespear Point
East
Cope
Canyon
1 Mile
4
Box Ca
Dry Canyon
Glory Cove
Canyon
Springs
EAST OF BRYCE
UT-040-266
N
Jolley Hollow
Sinking Ship
Campbell Creek
22
23
27
34
TROPIC VALLEY
178
Tropic

UNIT NUMBER: UT-040-268 WSA ACREAGE: 19,030

UNIT NAME: THE BLUES UNIT ACREAGE: 20,290

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The Blues unit lies north and east of Henrieville and directly south and below Powell Point. The southern and western boundary is U-12. Major drainages in the unit include Henderson, Pardner, Jimmie, and Pasture Canyons.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: Unit UT-040-268 contains 15,120 acres of public land. During the intensive inventory field work, no road was found between units UT-040-268 and UT-040-265 which meets the Wilderness Inventory Handbook definition. Therefore, unit UT 040-265 containing 5,170 acres of public land was combined with UT-040-268. The combined unit contains 20,290 acres of public land and encloses 1,288 acres of State land.

The combined unit area which has been determined to possess wilderness characteristics contains 19,030 acres of public land.

B. NATURALNESS: With the exception of a limited number of areas around the perimeter of the unit, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. The unit boundary was adjusted to legal subdivisions in accordance with OAD 78-61, change 2 (p. 5) to exclude nonnatural areas where cumulative effects were present and it was not possible to relocate the boundary to the physical edge of any one imprint.

Two reductions in area were made to the unit as a result of the cumulative impacts of human works. In the southern portion of the unit, the boundary was relocated along a powerline and pipeline. These impacts are significant and insolate a portion of the unit. The second area, impacted by numerous ways and trails, is located between lower Henderson and Pasture Canyons. A portion of the way in Pardner Canyon was also determined to be substantially noticeable. The unit possesses a natural area containing 19,030 acres of public land.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The unit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The topography varies from badlands in the eastern portion of the unit to extremely rugged and dissected canyons in the west. Vegetation cover ranges from sparse at lower elevations to ponderosa pine in elevated areas. Screening provided by a combination of vegetation and topography offers an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sight and south of others.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit offers a wide variety of primitive and unconfined recreational activities. These include hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, hunting, and both geological and botanical sightseeing. The quality of some of these opportunities is enhanced by the variation in vegetation and topography. Foot travel in the unit ranges from easy walking to demanding rock climbing. The badlands area called The Blues is very interesting geologically. Opportunities for exploration within the unit are excellent.

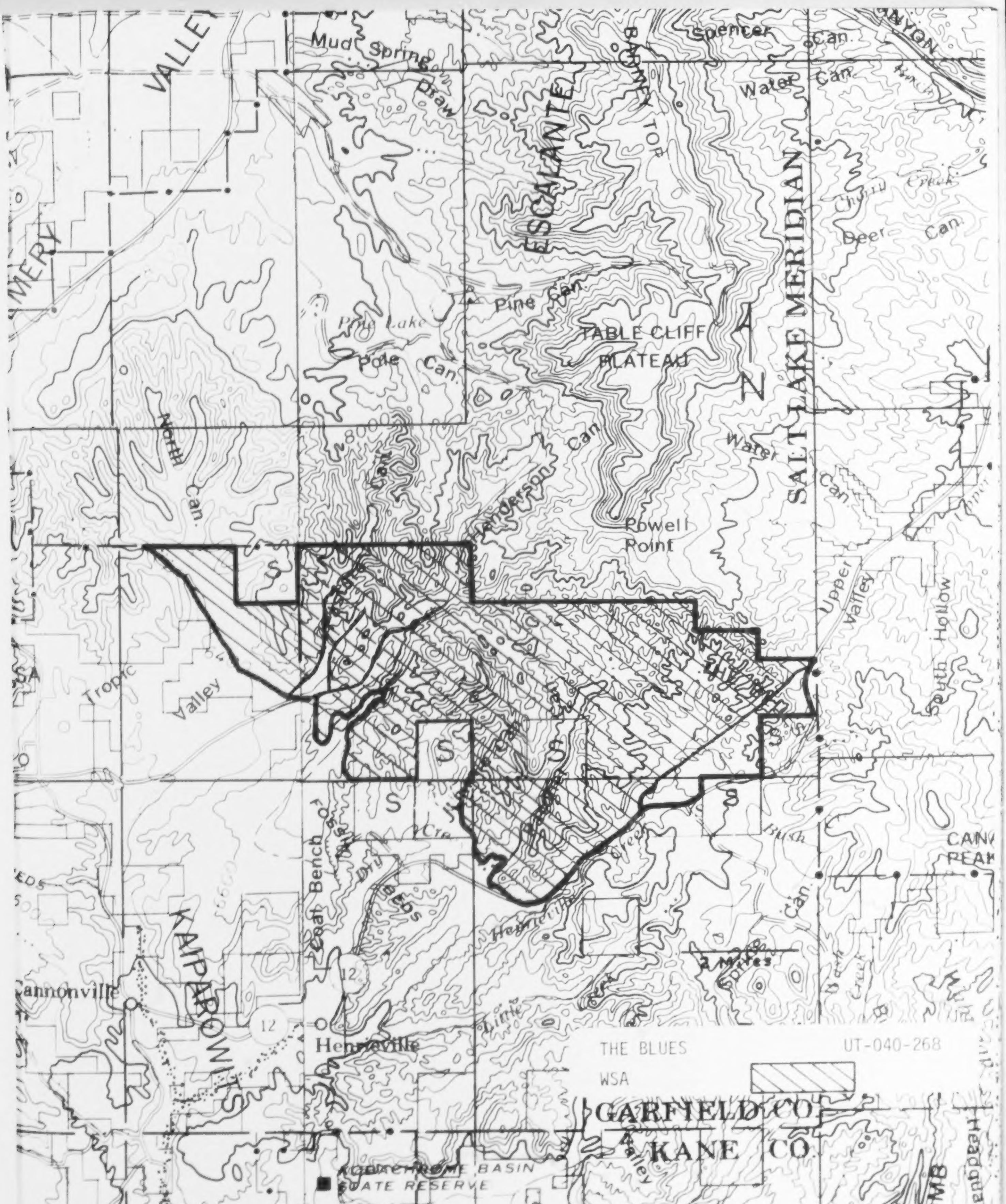
The quality and variety of primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities available in the unit have been determined to be outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The area contains botanical, geological, and paleontological supplemental values. One threatened plant species, Xylorhiza confertifolia, is found in the Kaiparowits formation.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Twenty-five comments containing information relative to wilderness characteristics were submitted. Twenty-two comments stated that approximately 19,000 acres possess the naturalness characteristic. Three comments state that the unit lacks naturalness. Twenty-one comments state that the outstanding solitude and/or outstanding primitive recreation characteristics are present in the unit while three comments maintain that the unit lacks both of these characteristics.

4. DECISION: 19,030 acres of this unit is identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Most of the comments stating that a portion of the unit possesses wilderness characteristics concurred with the Summary Narratives. Those comments stating that wilderness characteristics are lacking in the unit cited imprints of man's work which are either located outside of the unit or were recognized during the inventory as having an impact and were eliminated from the proposed WSA. Those imprints of man's work were also the basis for stating that the solitude and primitive recreation characteristics are absent in the area. None of the impacts outside the WSA boundary, including the Shakespeare Mine and the three towns to the southwest, are considered to be so imposing as to effect wilderness characteristics within the WSA. The exclusion of all substantially noticeable works of man and the presence of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation qualifies this area for wilderness study.


THE BLUES
UT-040-268
WSA
GARFIELD CO
KANE CO
SALT LAKE MERIDIAN
ESCALANTE
KAIPAROWITS
TABLE CLIFF PLATEAU
Powell Point
Henderson Can.
Water Can.
Pine Can.
Pole Can.
Pine Lake
Mud Spring Draw
North Can.
Tropic Valley
Upper Valley
South Hollow
Deer Can.
Spencer Can.
Cannonville
Henrieville
KODACHROME BASIN STATE RESERVE
ROUND VALLEY
2 Miles

RICHFIELD DISTRICT

Intensive Inventory

Inventory Number	Unit Name	Identified as a WSA	Not Identified as a WSA
UT-050-019	Kern Mountains		X
UT-050-029	Granite Spring		X
UT-050-061	Swasey Mountains	X	
UT-050-073	Wah Wah Mountains	X	
UT-050-113	Thomas Range		X
UT-050-127	Fish Springs Range	X	
UT-050-221	Fremont Gorge	X	
UT-050-237	Horseshoe Canyon	X	
UT-050-238	Blue Hills-Mt. Ellen	X	
UT-050-241	Fiddler Butte	X	
UT-050-242	Bull Mountain	X	
UT-050-244	Ragged Mountain		X
UT-050-247	Little Rockies	X	
UT-050-248	Mt. Pennell	X	
UT-050-249	Mt. Hillers	X	
UT-050-253	Long Canyon		X
UT-050-257	Notom Bench		X

UNIT NO.: UT-050-319
(NV-040-079)

WSA ACREAGE: 0 (Utah)

UNIT NAME: KERN MOUNTAINS

UNIT ACREAGE: 28,700 (Utah)
43,600 (Total)

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This inventory unit is an interstate unit, partially in White Pine County, Nevada, and partially in Juab/Millard Counties, Utah. It is 70 miles west of Delta, Utah; and 60 miles northeast of Ely, Nevada, near the settlement of Gandy, Utah. The topography is generally flat, with low ridges and several large washes.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The intensive inventory unit contains 43,600 acres of public land, with approximately 28,700 acres in Utah. Within the unit, there are approximately 800 acres of state lands.

B. NATURALNESS: Much evidence of ranching related activities exist within the unit, including ways, corrals, and reservoirs. Roads and ways penetrate the unit. Approximately 22,000 acres are in a natural condition.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The flat topography and sparse vegetative cover offer little opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others. The opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.

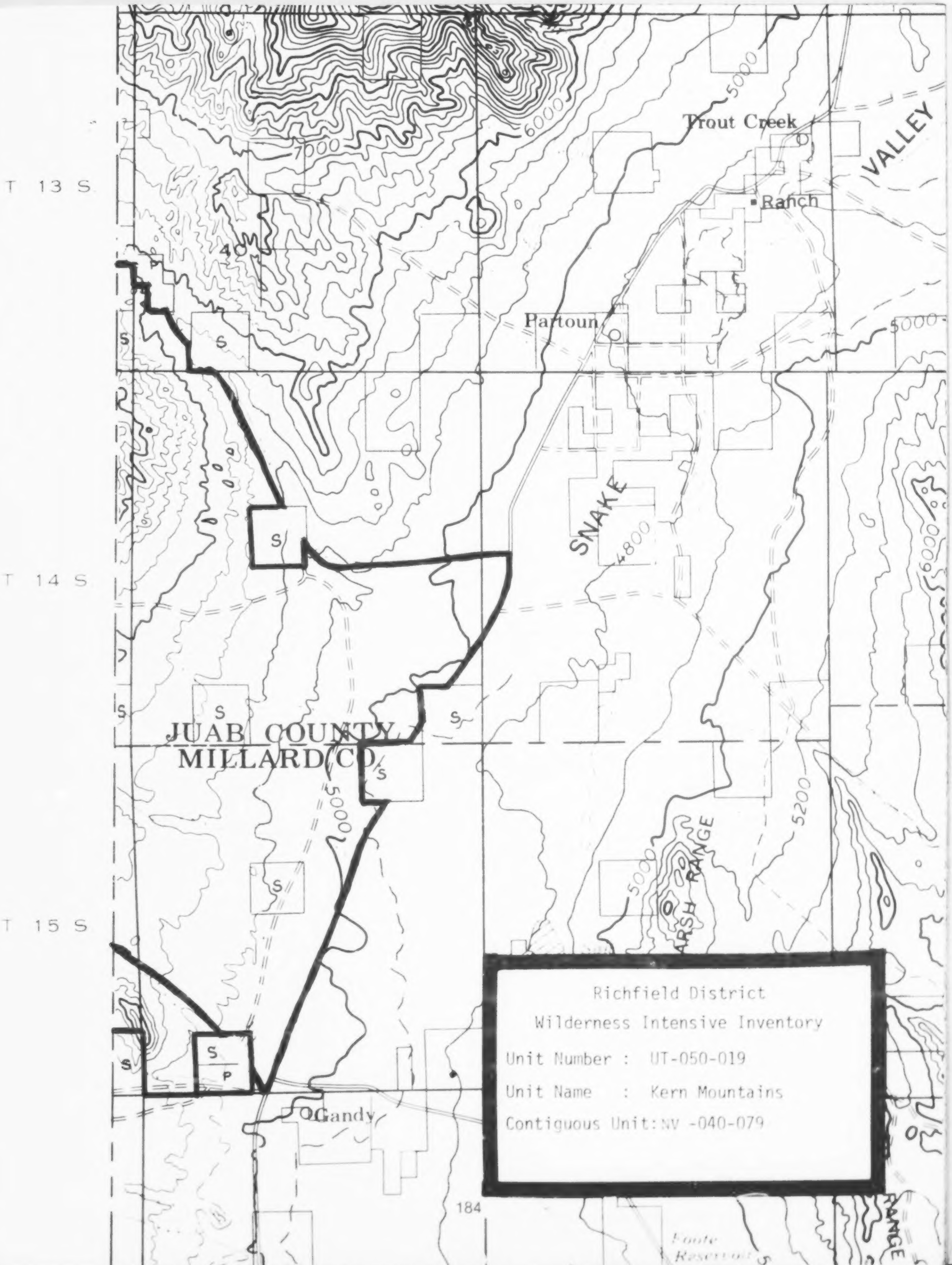
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: While opportunities for hiking, camping, and horseback riding exist within the unit, the lack of topographic variety would make these activities low quality. Neither the diversity nor the quality of the recreational opportunities is outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: No supplemental values were found within the unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Only one comment was received for this unit, which supported the proposal to drop this interstate unit from further review.

4. DECISION: Drop from further study.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No information was received through public comment to indicate that the proposal to drop the unit was in error.


T 13 S
T 14 S
T 15 S
Trout Creek
Ranch
VALLEY
Partoun
SNAKE
JUAB COUNTY
MILLARD CO
Gandy
MARSH RANGE
RANGE
184
Foote Reservoir
7000
6000
5000
4800
5200
Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-019
Unit Name : Kern Mountains
Contiguous Unit: NV -040-079

UNIT NO.: UT-050-029
(NV-040-086)

WSA ACREAGE: 0 (Utah)

UNIT NAME: GRANITE SPRING

UNIT ACREAGE: 28,180 (UTAH)
121,000 (TOTAL)

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This is an interstate unit between Utah and Nevada. It is located approximately one (1) mile west of Gandy, Utah, and is bounded on the southwest by U.S. Highway #50 near Sacramento Pass. The unit generally surrounds Mt. Moriah.

Most of the unit is flat. The northern portion contains foothills and low mountains.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The original inventory unit included approximately 121,000 acres with approximately 28,000 acres in Utah.

B. NATURALNESS: Mining and ranching have been the primary activities in the unit and there are numerous intrusions of these activities. Roads and ways intrude into almost every portion of the area. Other intrusions include several mines, stock tanks, an irrigation canal, pipelines, and reservoirs. Lack of naturalness reduces the size of the potential WSA considerably and eliminates that portion of the unit in Utah.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: This characteristic was not evaluated.

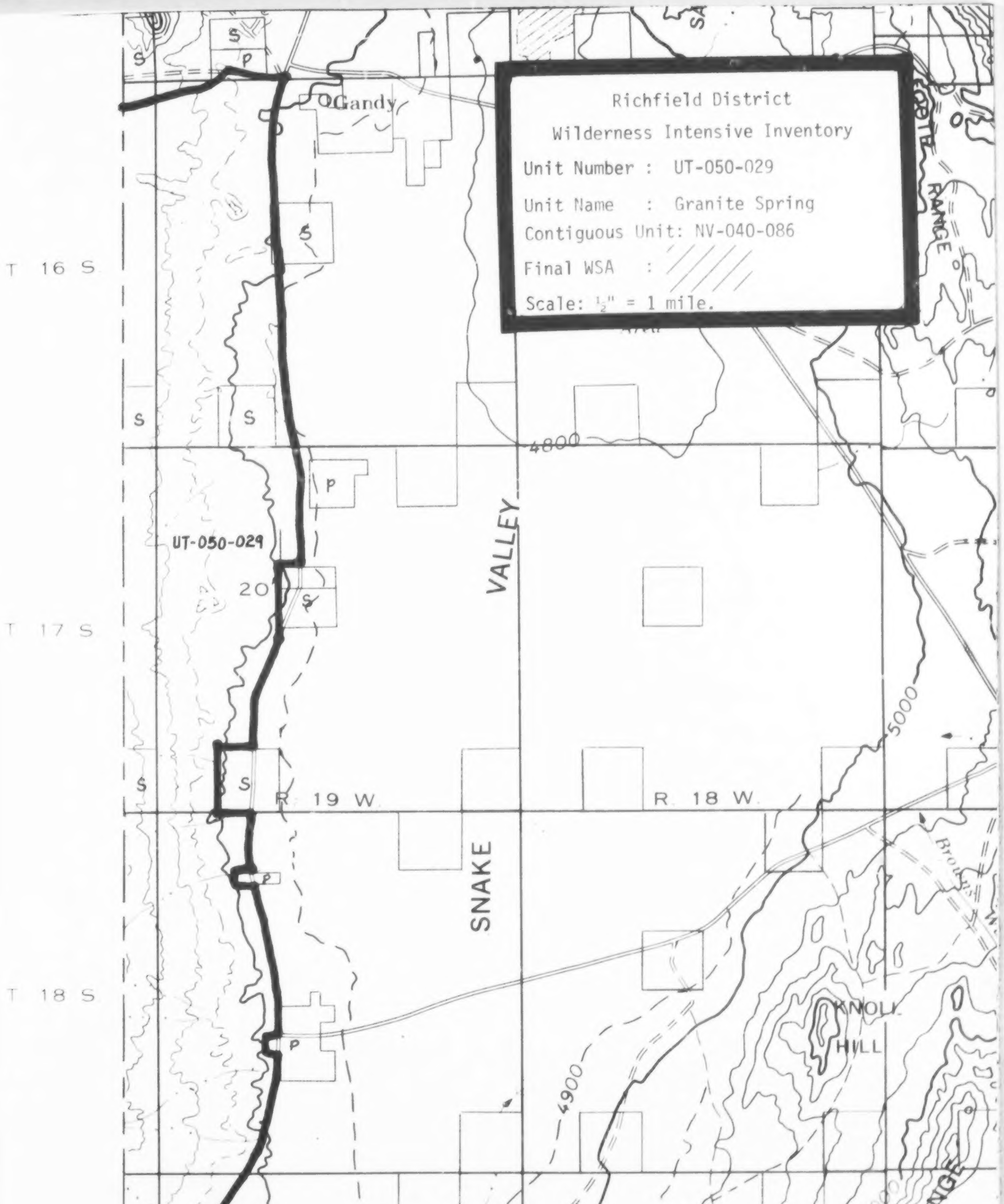
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: This characteristic was not evaluated.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: These were not evaluated.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Only one comment was received, which supported the BLM decision to drop this unit from further study.

4. DECISION: Drop unit from further review.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No information was received which would change the proposed decision to drop the unit. There was no support for a WSA in this unit.



Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-029
Unit Name : Granite Spring
Contiguous Unit: NV-040-086
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 mile.
Gandy
UT-050-029
T 16 S
T 17 S
T 18 S
R. 19 W.
R. 18 W.
SNAKE
VALLEY
KNOLL
HILL
RANGE
4800
4900
5000
186

UNIT NO.: UT-050-061 WSA ACREAGE: 49,500

UNIT NAME: SWASEY MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE: 83,320

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: Swasey Mountain is a part of the House Range. The unit is situated between Tule Valley and Whirlwind Valley. The southern border is Death Canyon and the northern border is just south of the Sand Pass Road. The majority of the unit is in Millard County, with the exception of the northern tip which is in Juab County. The upper two-thirds of the unit consists of high, distinct peaks, steep palisade cliffs and narrow twisting canyons. The lower portion is characterized by small washes and flat desert. The vegetation ranges from low desert shrub to mature stands of white fir. Most drainages contain Ponderosa pine, aspen, and chokecherry. Water is available year-round from the numerous springs on the east slopes of the mountain.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 83,320 acres of public lands. 76,760 acres are in Millard County, and 6,560 acres are in Juab County.

B. NATURALNESS: A large portion of the unit around the periphery has been heavily affected by the works of man. Mining claims and mining activity are evident in the northwest portions and in the very southern part of the unit. Range improvements are noticeable in the south and east.

The higher elevations appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. A few ways and a couple of developed springs are still inside the area identified as natural; however, they are substantially unnoticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The steep, meandering canyons and the palisade cliffs of the large mountain provide substantial separation between ridges and valleys and enhance opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others. The topography is complemented by the vegetation with screening throughout the unit.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The steep west-side cliffs offer challenging exploration to the hiker. The eastern slopes are ideal for horseback riding or cross country skiing, and the availability of game animals offer sport hunting opportunities at different times throughout the year.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The Swasey Mountain unit contains historic, scenic and habitat values.

Historic - Historical values include trilobite beds over 550 million years old; remains of a Civilian Conservation Corp. (CCC) camp of the 1930's.

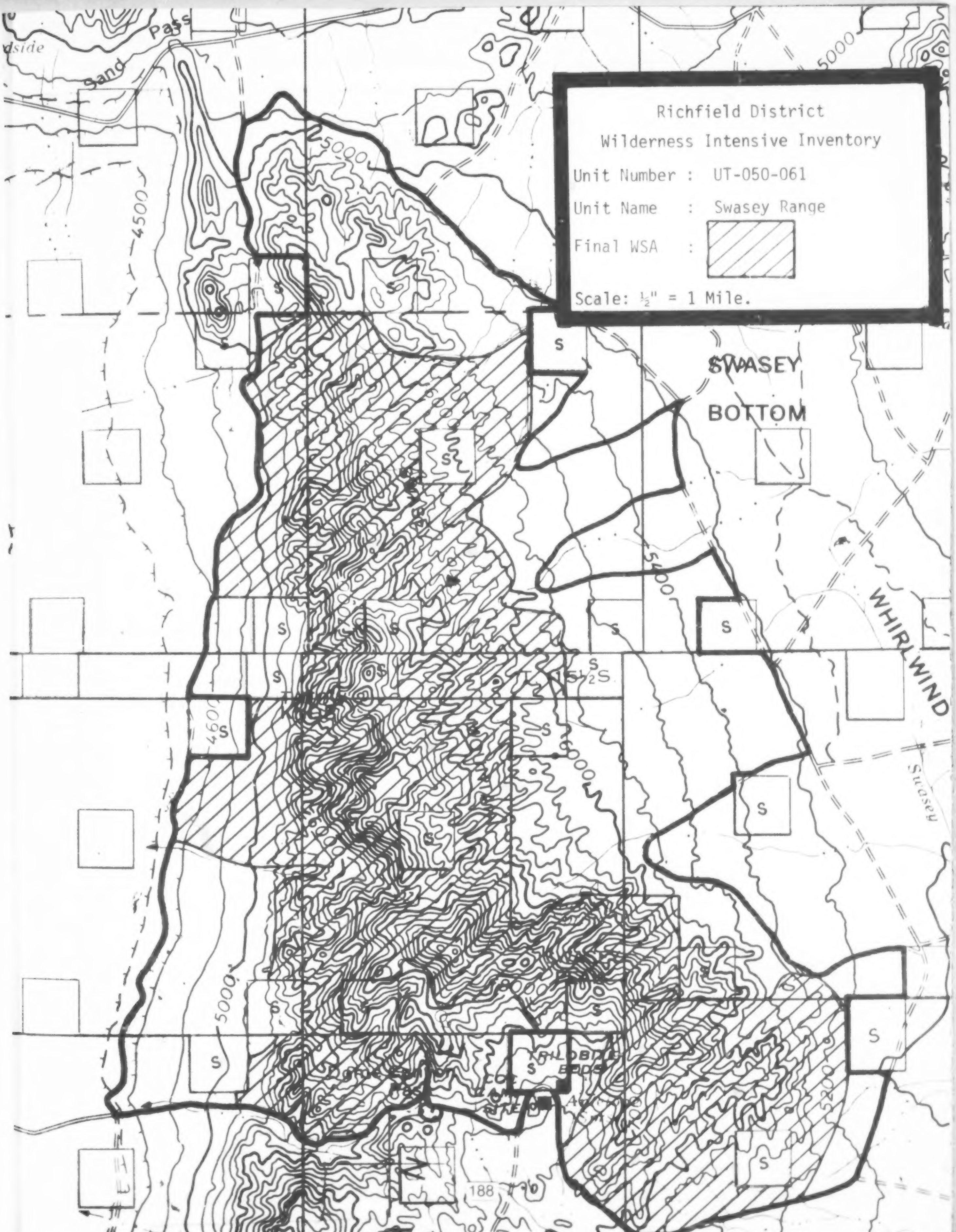
Scenic - Scenic palisade cliffs and outstanding vistas are found along the west side of the range.

Habitat - Swasey Mountain offers ideal habitat for many types of wildlife, including deer, wild horses, cougar, eagles, hawks, and chukars.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Thirty-three comments were received, twenty-five of which favored a WSA for this unit. Some wanted added acreage, while others wanted a reduced area. The majority concurred with the BLM proposal.

4. DECISION: As proposed, an area of 49,500 acres will be identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Most respondents favored the BLM proposal of a 49,500 acre WSA. Some felt that acreage should be added in the northeastern portion of the inventory unit, this area was recommended to be dropped during the inventory because of substantially noticeable intrusions. Recommendation that a portion on the north be dropped from the WSA could not be accommodated, because it has remained natural. Consequently, no adjustments have been made.


Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-061
Unit Name : Swasey Range
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 Mile.
Sand Pass
SWASEY
BOTTOM
WHIRLWIND
Swasey
T. 15½ S.
TRILOBITE
BEDS
188

UNIT NO.: UT-050-073 WSA ACREAGE: 35,000

UNIT NAME: WAH WAH MOUNTAINS UNIT ACREAGE: 84,000

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit includes the northern portion of the Wah Wah Mountains. This range is situated between Pine Valley on the west and Wah Wah Valley on the east. Highway 21 borders this unit on the south and the Garrison-Black Rock Road on the north. Most of the unit is in Millard County with a small portion in Beaver County. The Wah Wah Mountains are a massive mountain range with very steep, rugged cliffs on the west and more gentle terrain on the east. Vegetation ranges from low desert shrub and grasses to stands of fir, ponderosa pine and bristlecone pine. No water sources exist in this portion of the Wah Wah Mountains.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: This unit contains 84,000 acres of public land. Approximately 10,600 acres are in Beaver County, the remainder are in Millard County.

B. NATURALNESS: The lower elevations on the west and south have been heavily affected by the works of man. Many range improvements occur along the west side of the range and mining activity is occurring in the southern portion of the unit.

The higher elevations and a majority of the east side of the range are in a natural condition.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The large and rugged Wah Wah Mountains offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The steep cliffs and canyon walls provide substantial separation between ridge top and valley bottom, enhancing opportunities to avoid the sights and sound of others. The vegetation compliments the topographic screening in this unit by creating enclosures.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The Wah Wah Mountains provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined type of activities including hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, hunting, sightseeing, etc. The high elevations provide spectacular scenic views.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The Wah Wah Mountain unit contains geologic, historic, and scenic values.

Geologic - Crystal Peak, a large,white rock formed by ash flow tuff from nearby volcanic activity, is a Millard County landmark. It is located at the northern tip of the Wah Wah Range.

Historic - A portion of the Ely-Frisco Stage Coach Trail is the same as the southwest border of this unit.

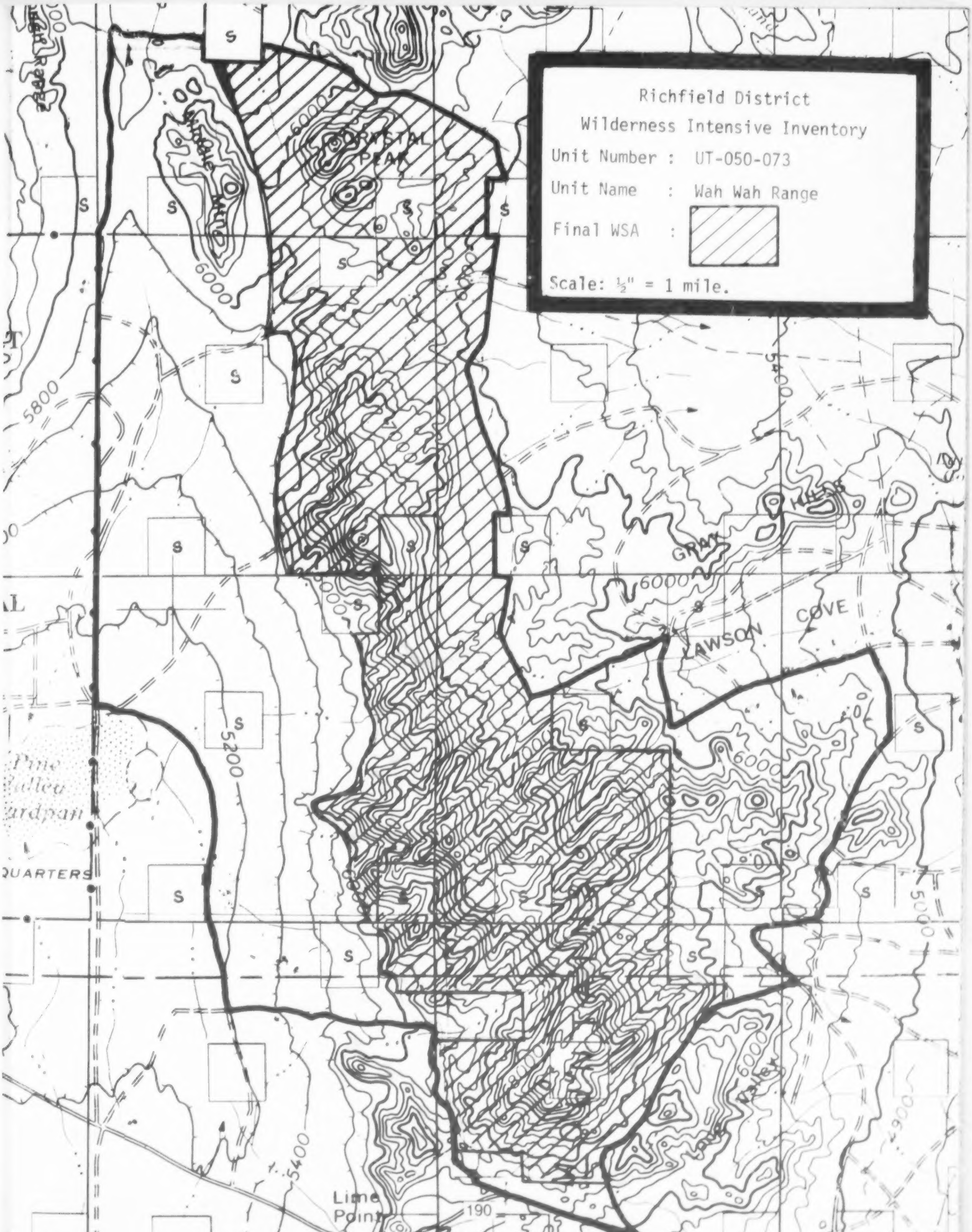
Scientific - Stands of bristlecone pine in this unit have been estimated to be over 4,000 years old.

Scenic - The Wah Wah Mountains are very scenic from by-passing roads and provide panoramic views from the mountain top.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Twenty-seven comments were received. Twenty-two comments supported a WSA for this unit, and 17 of these supported the BLM proposal of a 35,000-acre WSA. Five of the respondents favored an enlarged WSA of 78,000 acres but provided no information to substantiate an enlarged WSA.

4. DECISION: A 35,000-acre WSA will be identified.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Since no new information was received which would allow either reduction or enlargement of the WSA, the proposal is not changed, as the intensive inventory determined that only 35,000 acres of this unit met the criteria of naturalness.


Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-073
Unit Name : Wah Wah Range
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 mile.
CRYSTAL PEAK
GRAY
LAWSON COVE
QUARTERS
Lime Point
6000
5800
5200
5400
5000
4900
190

UNIT NO. UT-050-11 WSA ACREAGE 0

UNIT NAME THOMAS RANGE UNIT ACREAGE: 44,000

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The Thomas Range is a small desert mountain located in west-central Juab County along the Brush Wellman Road, approximately 40 miles northwest of Delta. The southern end of the range is known as Topaz Mountain.

Elevations slightly exceed 7,000 feet. Vegetation consists of low desert shrubs with scattered juniper growing in sheltered areas at higher elevations.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 44,000 acres of public land, entirely within Juab County.

B. NATURALNESS: Because of the popularity of this area for rockhounding, the human imprints are substantially noticeable. Mining and drilling operations have occurred on much of the range. A number of range improvements and roads impact the naturalness of the unit in many locations.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: This small desert mountain range has little topographic or vegetative screening. The popularity of this unit for rockhounding results in heavy use year-round, making opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit does provide opportunities for primitive recreation, but opportunities are less than outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Supplemental values include geologic, historic, and archaeological.

Historic - The northern border road of this unit is part of the original Pony Express Road.

Geologic - The Thomas Range is a well-known locality for collecting many types of minerals. These include topaz, red beryl, bixbyite, garnet, opal, etc.

Archaeological - Studies have determined that obsidian from the Thomas Range was the preferred tool-making stone, used by Indians in the Deep Creek Mountains.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Thirty-one comments were received for this unit. Twenty-six favored a WSA. Those who felt the unit should be dropped thought that opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation were not outstanding. Most of the reasons given in favor of a WSA were irrelevant - such as "views are unique," "easy driving distance from Salt Lake,""area is natural", and "should receive 30,000-acre WSA based on splendor and abundant wildlife."

4. DECISION: The unit will be dropped from further review.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: While most comments favored a WSA for this unit, either no reasons were given or they were irrelevant (see summary of comments above). Photos submitted showed broad, open canyons and sparse vegetation, which supported BLM's evaluation that the opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation were not outstanding.

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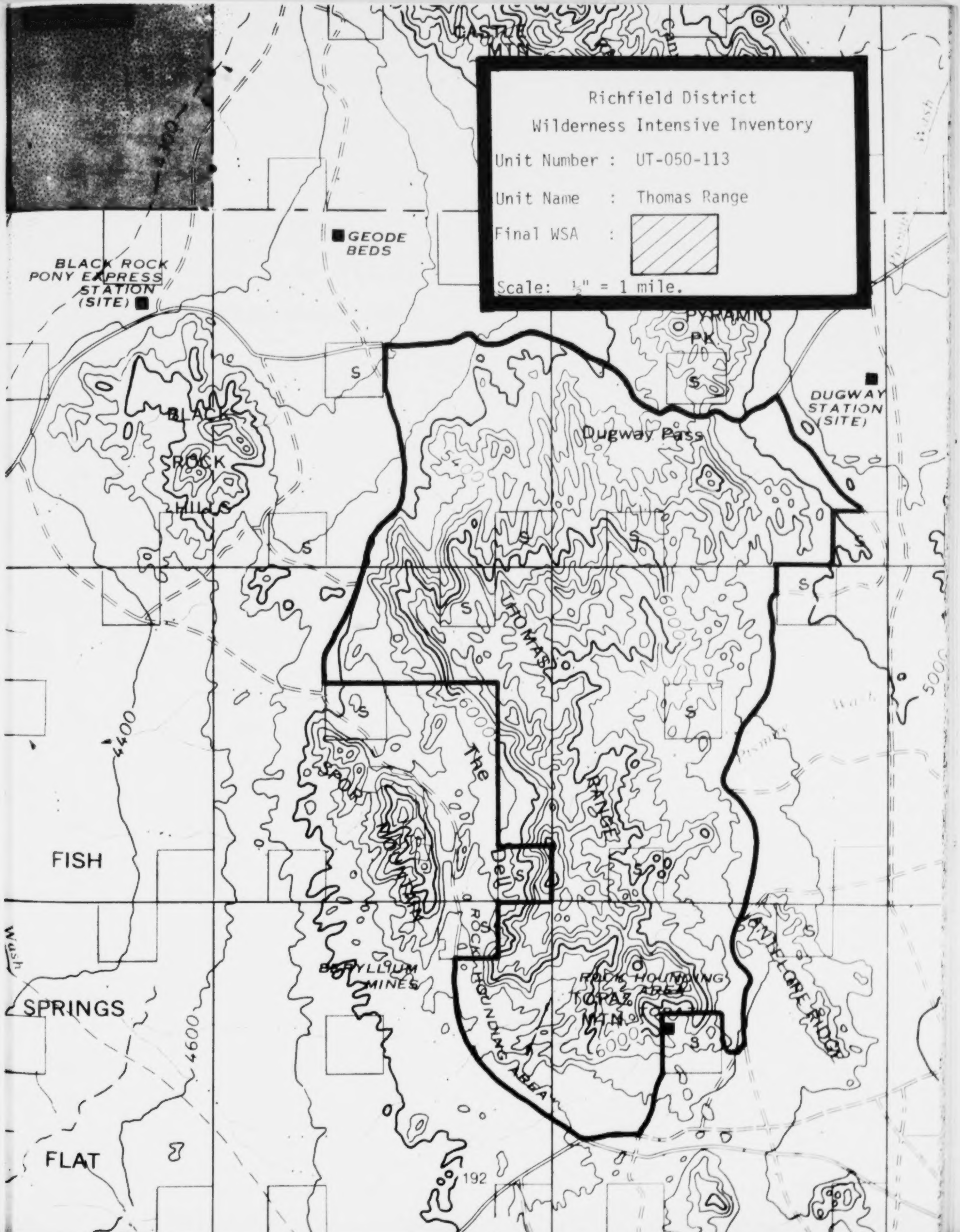

Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-113
Unit Name : Thomas Range
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 mile.
GEODE BEDS
BLACK ROCK PONY EXPRESS STATION (SITE)
BLACK ROCK HILLS
PYRAMID PK
DUGWAY STATION (SITE)
Dugway Pass
THOMAS RANGE
SPOR MOUNTAIN
The Dell
FISH
SPRINGS
FLAT
BERYLLIUM MINES
ROCK HOUNDING AREA
TOPAZ MTN
ANTELOPE RIDGE
4400
4600
6000
5000
192

UNIT NO.: UT-060-127 WSA ACREAGE: 52,500

UNIT NAME: FISH SPRINGS UNIT ACREAGE: 68,900

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The Fish Springs inventory unit is in northwestern Juab County, approximately 50 miles northwest of Delta, Utah.

The Fish Springs Range is a steep, rugged mountain range with elevations ranging from 4,500 feet to 8,500 feet.

Vegetation is primarily sagebrush, ephedra, greasewood, winterfat, rabbit brush and shadscale at the lower elevations. Higher up, pinyon pine and juniper dominate.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: There are approximately 68,900 acres of public land in the inventory unit which is 20 miles long by 5 miles wide.

B. NATURALNESS: Naturalness has been affected by mining operations in the northern part of the range. Evidence of man include tailings, drill sites, old buildings, access roads and a power line. Some exploration work is currently occurring. Several "ways" penetrate the unit between the boundary roads and the steep mountain slopes, but most are substantially unnoticeable.

The major portion of the unit has remained unaffected by human activity.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: In the unintruded portion of the unit, opportunities for solitude are outstanding. The juniper and pinyon forests of the upper elevation provide vegetative screening and the numerous, deep, side canyons provide opportunities for solitude through topographic screening.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The numerous deep, rugged canyons and the crest of the range can only be explored on foot. There are no trails in the unit other than the partially revegetated "ways" on portions of the lower talus slopes.

Steep slopes, rugged topography, loose rock, sheer cliffs, and boulder-choked drainages will continue to prevent easy access. Over 40,000 acres of land in the center of the range offer excellent and challenging opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation for hikers, photographers and hunters.

Investigation of the local geology, wildlife, and flora is possible throughout the unit.

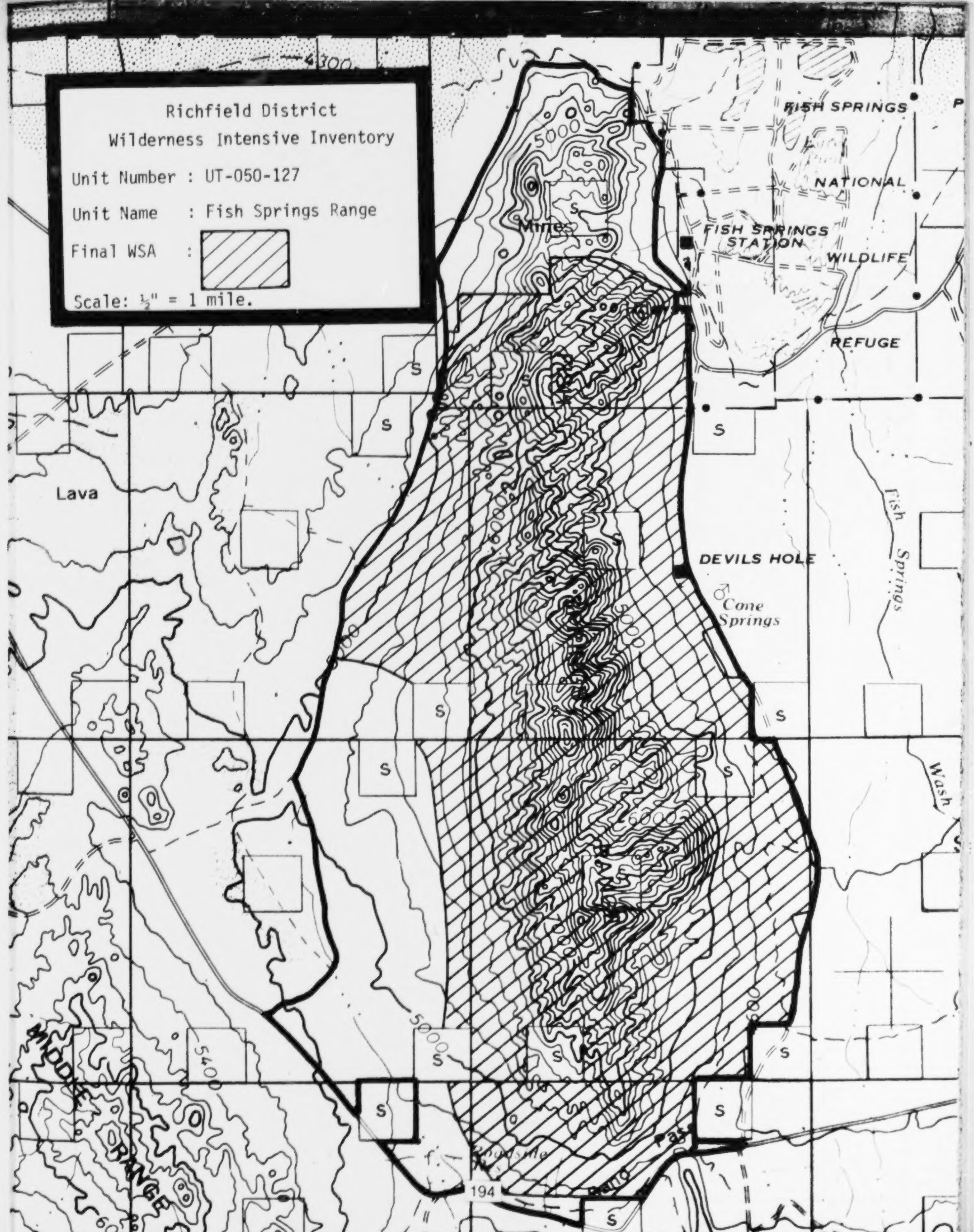
The greater portion of this unit provides outstanding opportunities for recreational activities of a primitive and unconfined nature.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are supplemental values related to botany, geology and scientific study. Exceptionally large juniper trees, over 8' in circumference, are found at the highest elevations. Fossils have been found at several locations. The Fish Springs Range is an excellent example of attenuation faulting as described by geologist Lehigh Hintze.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Of the twenty-six respondents, only three did not favor a WSA for this unit. Some noted low flying military aircraft as a reason for the lack of solitude. Several thought the WSA should be slightly larger (55,000 acres).

4. DECISION: Identify a WSA of 52,500 acres within this inventory unit.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Most of the respondents favored a WSA. The low-flying military aircraft flights, "sights and sounds" outside the area, are infrequent and of short duration. The WSA boundary was delineated to exclude portions lacking naturalness. To enlarge it by 2,500 acres would be to include intruded lands.


Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-127
Unit Name : Fish Springs Range
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 mile.
FISH SPRINGS
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE
FISH SPRINGS STATION
Mines
Lava
DEVILS HOLE
Cone Springs
Fish Springs
Wash
MIDDLE RANGE
194
5000
6000
5400
4300

UNIT NO.: UT-050-221 WSA ACREAGE: 2,540

UNIT NAME: FREMONT GORGE UNIT ACREAGE: 18,500

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This inventory unit is immediately west of Capitol Reef National Park and south of Utah Highway 24 near Torrey, Utah.

In the northern third of the unit, Sulphur Creek and its tributaries have cut many small canyons in the Moenkopi sandstone. These canyons gradually deepen toward the east as they enter Capitol Reef National Park.

Near the center of the unit, the Fremont River also flows through a gradually deepening gorge and is joined by several tributaries. Water flows all year in both the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek.

South of the Fremont Gorge, pinyon-juniper prevails as elevations rise to 7,500 feet on Miner's Mountain.

Most of the area adjacent to this unit has been proposed for wilderness designation by the National Park Service.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The inventory unit includes approximately 18,500 acres. In the intensive inventory, an overhead telephone line, together with construction and maintenance roads, was found to separate the unit into two sub-units. These were designated as #221A and #221B, and inventoried separately.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit contains indications of man's presence in the form of roads, ways, a telephone line, excavations for flagstone, a town dump, and stock watering facilities. These intrusions are found primarily on the periphery of the unit, on Beas Lewis Flat, and on portions of Miner's Mountain.

Parts of the unit have remained natural, including the Sulphur Creek/Calf Creek drainage and an area between Miner's Mountain and Capitol Reef National Park.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Opportunities for solitude vary considerably in these sub-units.

In sub-unit 221B, opportunities for solitude are present below the eastern rim of Miner's Mountain and in Fremont Gorge, but are considered to be less than outstanding.

In sub-unit #221A, the Sulphur Creek/Calf Creek drainages offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Sulphur Creek is a perennial stream and narrow, steep-walled canyons have retained natural riparian vegetation.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Opportunities for pursuing primitive and unconfined types of recreation including hiking, photography, rockhounding, and wildlife observation, are excellent in portions of the unit.

The presence of potable water in two of the canyons adds to one's recreational experience. However, these opportunities are not considered outstanding.

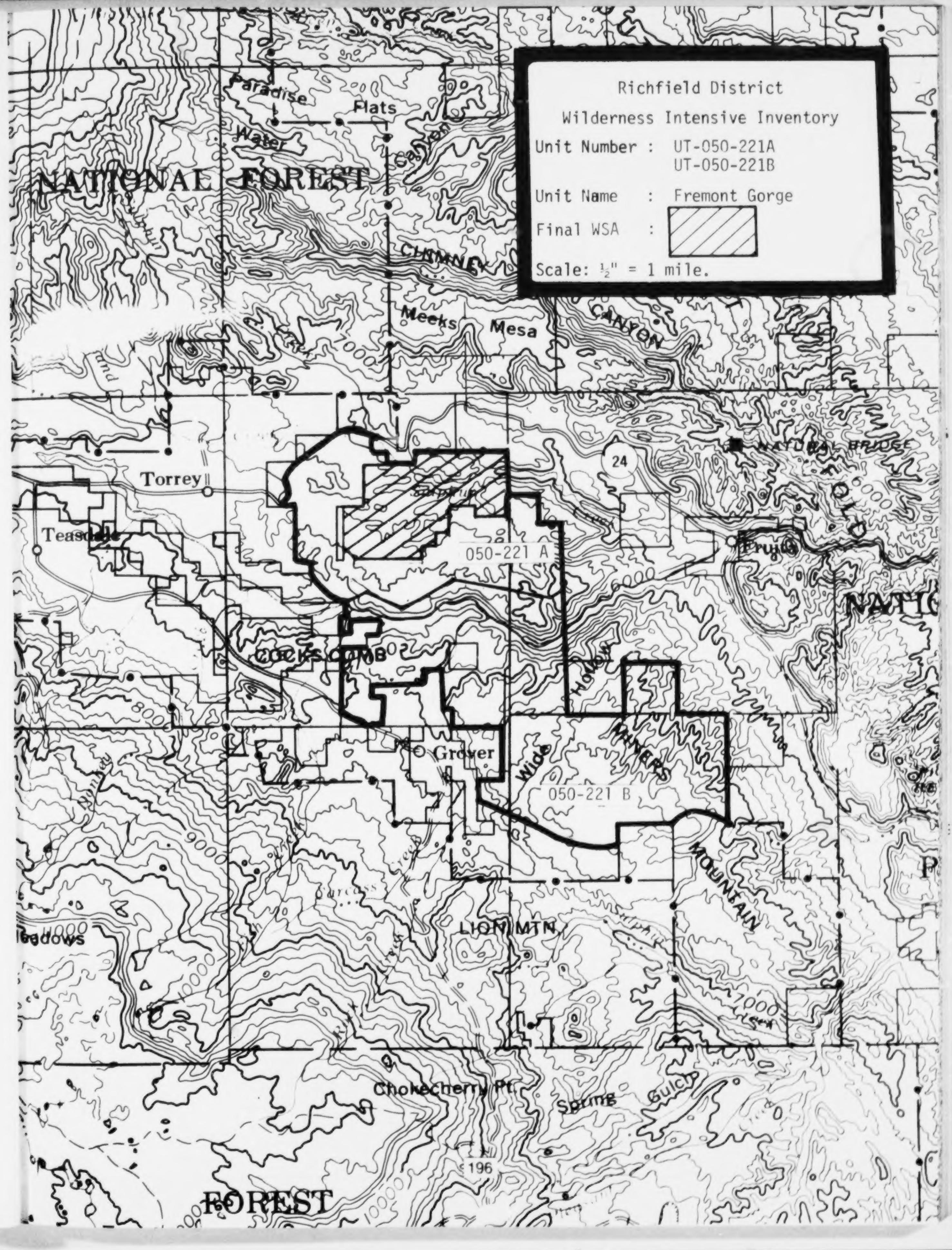
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Sulphur Creek Canyon, with its pristine riparian habitat, has ecological, educational, and scientific values. The scenic values are quite evident with overhanging canyon walls two to three hundred feet high. Archaeological values are also found within the unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Twenty-one of the twenty-four respondents favored a WSA for the unit, but recommended acreages for a WSA which varied from 2,540 acres to 18,000 acres. Those favoring an enlarged WSA wanted to include the Fremont River Gorge and a portion of Miner's Mountain adjacent to Capitol Reef National Park.

4. DECISION: Identify as a WSA the 2,540 acres of the Sulphur Creek drainage and drop the balance of the unit from further study.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the unintruded portion of sub-unit #221A is included in the WSA. In the Fremont Gorge a highly visible constructed road leads down the south side of the Gorge to a flat along the river. The flats south and above the river contain 160 acres of private land with a cultivated hayfield. Several roads penetrate Miner's Mountain from the south.

While the portion of the Miner's Mountain area below the canyon rim and adjacent to Capitol Reef National Park is in a natural condition, opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding. Therefore, sub-unit #241B is not identified for further study.


Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-221A
UT-050-221B
Unit Name : Fremont Gorge
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 mile.
NATIONAL FOREST
Paradise Flats
Water
CHIMNEY CANYON
Meeks Mesa
NATURAL BRIDGE
24
Torrey
Teasdale
050-221 A
Fruita
COCKS COMB
Grover
Wide
MINERS
MOUNTAIN
050-221 B
LION MTN
Chokecherry Pt.
Spring Gulch
196
FOREST

UNIT NO.: UT-050-237 WSA ACREAGE: 38,800

UNIT NAME: HORSESHOE CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 73,180

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The Horseshoe Canyon Unit is in northeastern Wayne County, west of Glen Canyon NRA. A portion of Canyonlands National Park, the Horseshoe Canyon Extension, is within the unit.

The area contains a series of deep, slick rock canyons separated by sparsely vegetated tables that converge near the Canyonlands NP extension.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 73,180 acres of public lands, and is contiguous to a wilderness proposal of Horseshoe Canyon Park Extension.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the unit is natural. Most of the intrusions are adjacent to the unit boundary roads. The central part of the area is free of intrusions.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Opportunities for experiencing an outstanding degree of solitude are abundant in the canyon bottoms and on the mesa tops. Vegetative screening combined with differences in topography provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

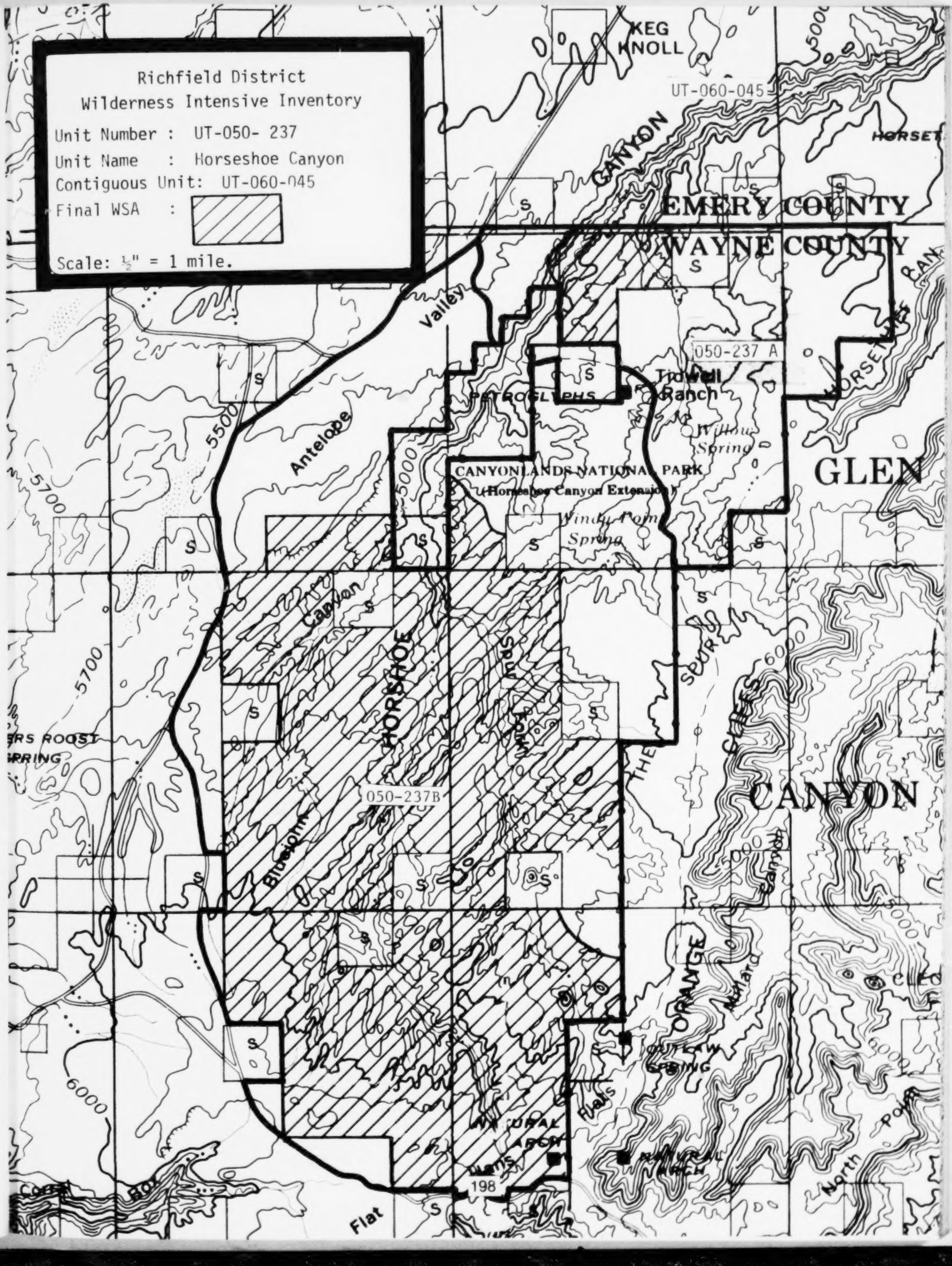
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The Canyons offer opportunities for backpacking, photography, sightseeing, horseback riding, hiking, rockhounding and nature study. The opportunities are considered outstanding because of the number and diversity of available recreational activities.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Man's prehistoric and historic association with the land (Fremont pictographs and relics left by Butch Cassidy and friends) and superlative scenery are among the supplemental values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Most of the respondents (15 of the 18 comments) favored a WSA for this unit, however, nine favored a larger WSA. Most seemed to favor a WSA of approximately 60,000 acres.

4. DECISION: A WSA of approximately 38,800 acres will be identified.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: A larger WSA was recommended by several respondents. The unit was re-evaluated and the boundary modified to include some 3,800 acres on the west and south which are either natural or have intrusions which are substantially unnoticeable.


Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050- 237
Unit Name : Horseshoe Canyon
Contiguous Unit: UT-060-045
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 mile.
KEG KNOLL
UT-060-045
EMERY COUNTY
WAYNE COUNTY
050-237 A
Tidwell Ranch
PETROGLYPHS
Willow Spring
CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK
(Horseshoe Canyon Extension)
Windy Point Spring
GLEN
CANYON
HORSESHOE
Antelope
Valley
Bluejohn Canyon
050-237B
THE SPUR
ORANGE CLIFFS
OUTLAW SPRING
NATURAL ARCH
198
Flat
North Point

UNIT NO.: UT-050-238 WSA ACREAGE 58,480

UNIT NAME: MT. ELLEN UNIT ACREAGE: 156,100

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This large unit is located in south central Wayne County and northeast Garfield County. There is a wide variety of topography, elevation, and vegetation.

The unit is dominated by Mt. Ellen (elevation 11,500'), where a series of high ridges are separated from each other by large basins and creek drainages. Vegetation includes desert shrub, pinyon, juniper, aspen, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and alpine tundra.

The unit has several large mesas including South Caineville Mesa, Thompson Mesa, and Wildcat Mesa. A vast area of barren badlands known as the Blue Hills is found north of Mt. Ellen.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains approximately 156,100 acres of public land.

B. NATURALNESS: Large portions of this unit have remained natural.

In the southeastern part of the unit (the Mt. Ellen area) over 24,000 acres have remained natural. The Blue Hills area and the Sweetwater Creek drainage in the northwest also have large natural areas. North of Mt. Ellen, the desert badlands are impacted by roads and "ways".

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Surrounding Mt. Ellen, diverse topography, steep slopes, isolated basins, dense forest, and open meadows provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. In the remainder of the unit, opportunities for solitude are believed to be less than outstanding as there is little topographic or vegetative screening.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The portion of the unit around Mt. Ellen provides opportunities for a wide variety of recreational activities including sightseeing, day hiking, photography, backpacking, geological study and wildlife observation. The variety and quality of these opportunities are considered to be outstanding. Elsewhere in the unit, the opportunities for pursuing a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are considered to be less than outstanding.

NOTE: Both topographic and vegetative extremes are found within the inventory unit. The lowlands consist of barren Mancos shale badlands and semi-barren flats, while the upper elevations surrounding Mt. Ellen have a diversity of topography and vegetation. Consequently, the Director has authorized boundary adjustments of the WSA will exclude portions not meeting the wilderness criteria.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Supplemental values found in the Mt. Ellen area include geological, scientific, educational, scenic, botanical and biological.

Mt. Ellen is the highest point in the Henry Mountains, which are the last named and explored major mountain range in the continental U.S. The higher elevations of Mt. Ellen offer outstanding vistas of the geology of central Utah and the entire Waterpocket Fold.

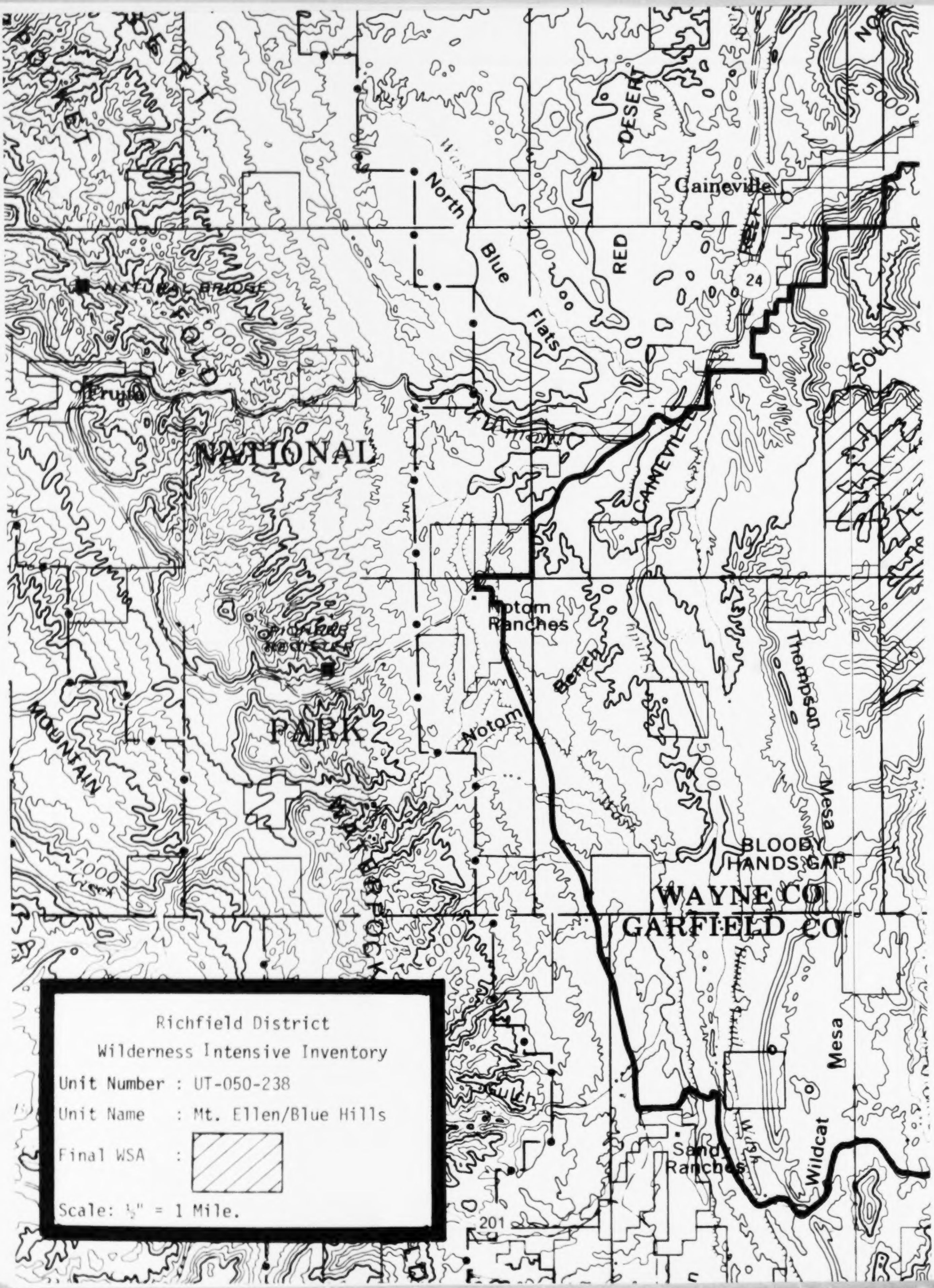
Portions of Mt. Ellen serve as a summer range for the free-roaming Henry Mountain buffalo herd and they are occasionally observed at 11,000 feet. The isolated, rugged terrain also serves as habitat for deer and mountain lion.

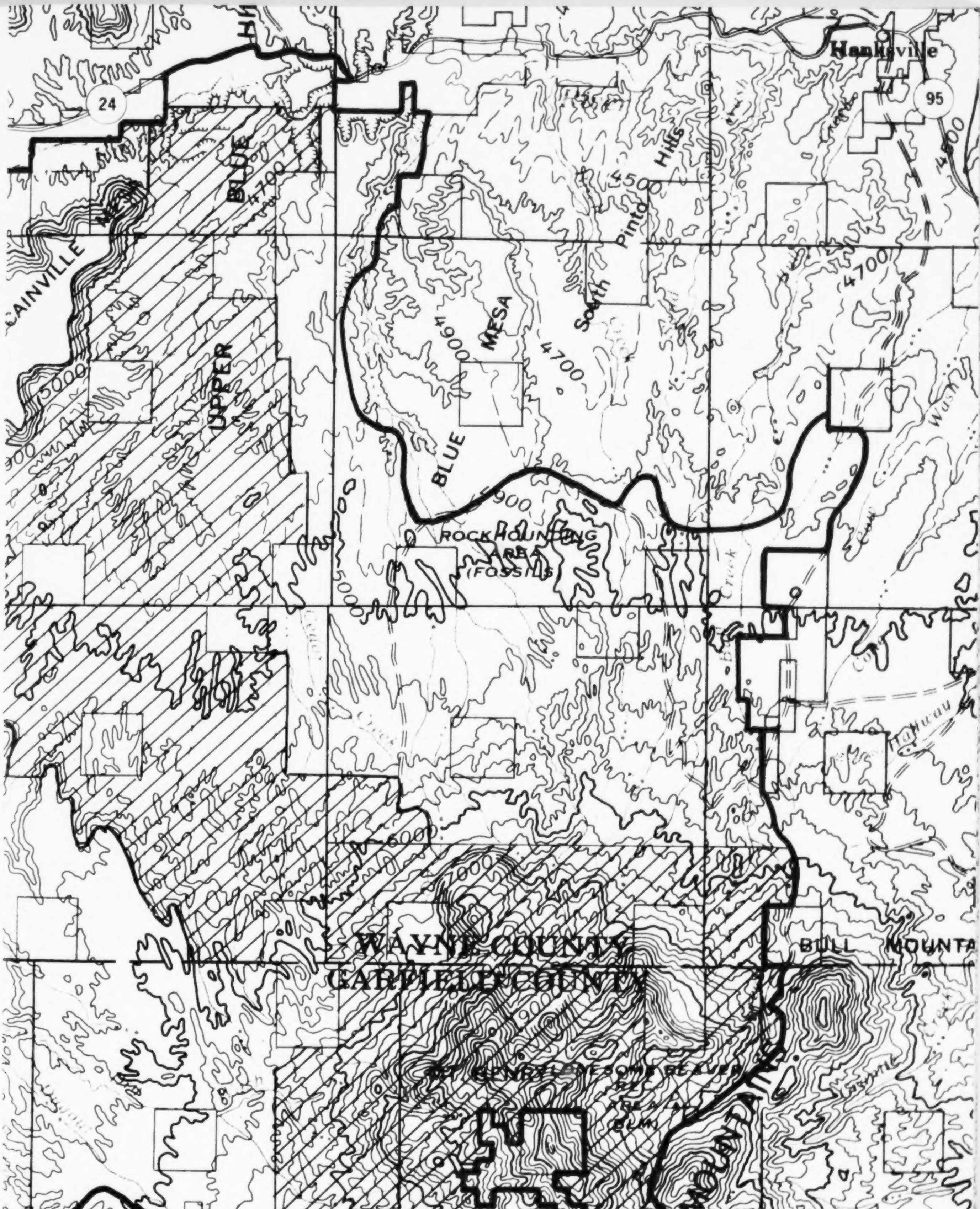
Bristlecone pine was discovered in the unit in 1973; and the Henry Mountains are considered the southeast limit for the Bristlecone pine in the U.S. Of scientific and ecologic interest are the four distinct life zones found in this unit. In a day's hike one could experience the Upper Sonoran, Transition, Canadian and Hudsonian Life Zones.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Forty-two of the fifty-one respondents favored a WSA for this unit and a majority felt that the WSA should be larger than the 24,600 acres proposed by BLM. Recommendations for size of a larger WSA ranged from 60,000 acres to 156,000 acres. Several indicated that South Caineville Mesa, Blue Hills and Sweetwater Creek should be included in the WSA. Many respondents also felt that there were outstanding opportunities for unconfined recreation in the Sweetwater Creek drainage, enabling people to hike through four life zones on a route from the Fremont River to Mt. Ellen.

4. DECISION: A WSA of 58,480 acres will be identified.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Since a large portion of the Blue Hills and the Sweetwater Creek drainage is in a natural condition, and since such a large majority of the respondents felt that these portions did offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, further field studies were conducted. The studies determined that these portions do possess outstanding opportunities for solitude and should be included in the WSA. South Caineville Mesa fails to meet the criteria of naturalness and outstanding opportunities. Man's presence is evidenced by the remains of a two-story stone house in the center of the mesa. The relative flatness and sparse, low-growing vegetation provide low quality opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.


Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-238
Unit Name : Mt. Ellen/Blue Hills
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 Mile.
POCKET
NATURAL BRIDGE
OLD
Fruita
NATIONAL
PARK
MOUNTAIN
7000
North
Blue
Flats
RED
DESERT
Caineville
24
REEF
CAINEVILLE
SOUTH
Notom
Ranches
Bench
Notom
Thompson
Mesa
BLOODY
HANDS GAP
WAYNE CO
GARFIELD CO.
6000
5000
Gulch
Sandy
Ranches
Wildcat
Mesa
201



24
95
Hanksville
CAINVILLE
BLUE
UPPER
BLUE
MESA
BLUE
MESA
South
Pinto
Hills
4500
4700
4900
5000
6000
7000
ROCKHOUNDING
AREA
(FOSSILS)
WAYNE COUNTY
GARFIELD COUNTY
BULL MOUNTA
EAGLE CITY
(GHOST TOWN)
MC MILLIN SPRING
Wash
Creek

UNIT NO.: UT-050-241 WSA ACREAGE: 27,000

UNIT NAME: FIDDLER BUTTE UNIT ACREAGE: 101,310

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is in northeastern Garfield County. It is virtually bisected by the Dirty Devil arm of Glen Canyon NRA. State highways U-95 and U-276 bound the unit on its western side and the Poison Springs Wash road is to the north.

The portion of the unit west of the Dirty Devil is typical of the Burr Desert at the upper elevations with a large area of slick rock near the Dirty Devil River. On the east, it is characterized by sparsely vegetated bench lands and broad canyons.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 101,310 acres of public land. Because of the unusual configuration, the unit has been divided into two sub-units designated as #241A and #241B. These sub-units contain approximately 56,000 and 45,000 acres, respectively.

B. NATURALNESS: Much of the unit has imprints of man which are most noticeable in the Burr Desert and adjacent to the boundary roads where mineral activities have been most active. The Dirty Devil, Butler, Stair and Marinus canyons are still in natural condition.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The unit provides opportunities for finding solitude, especially just west of the Dirty Devil River in the slick rock canyons. The topographic screening of Stair, Butler and Marinus Canyons is considered to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: A variety of recreational activities can be engaged in by the visitor, including hiking, photography, rock-hounding, horseback riding, sightseeing, and canyon exploring. Because of the variety and quality of these activities in the slick rock portion of the unit, the opportunities are felt to be outstanding.

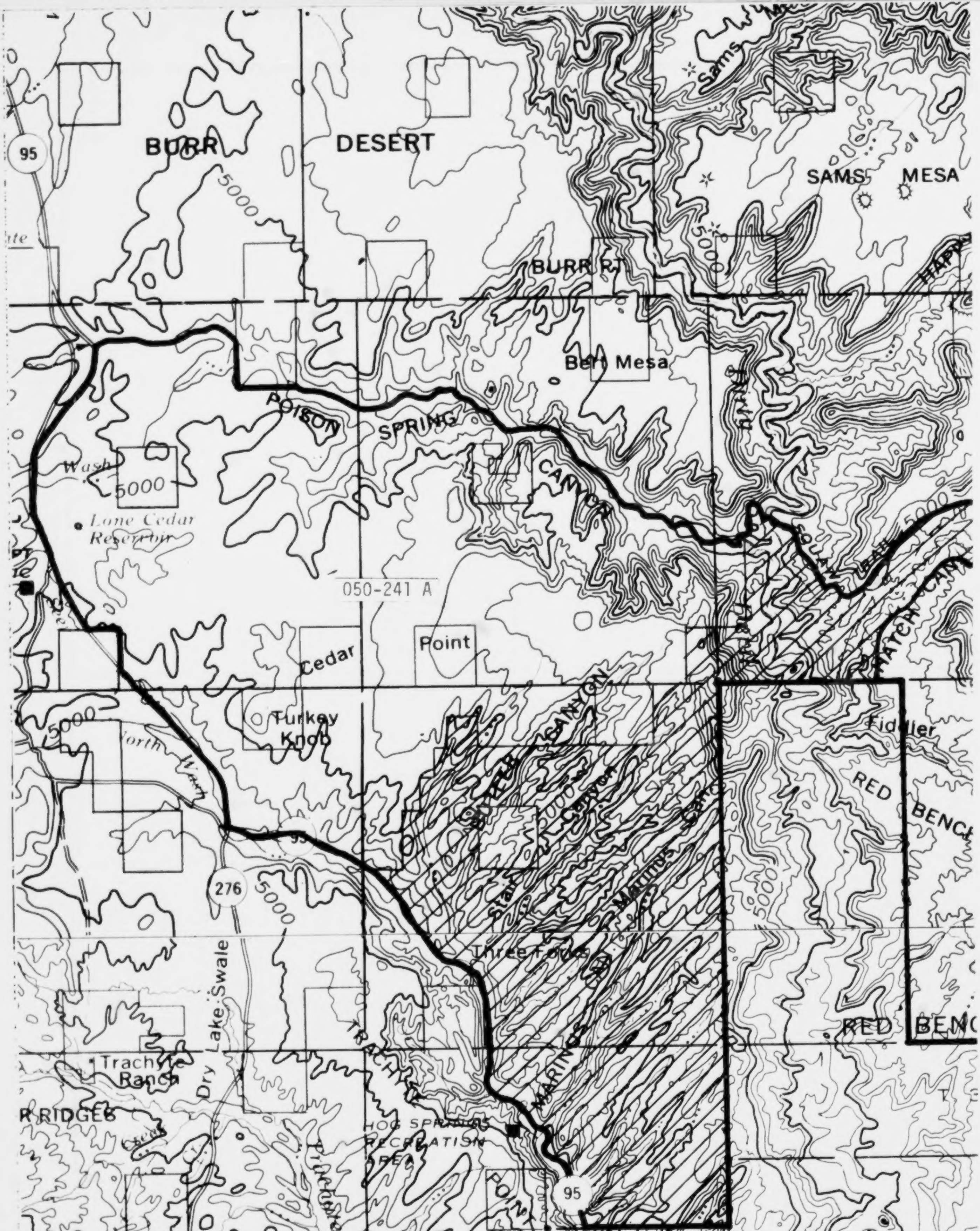
NOTE: Because of the distinct topographic differences within sub-unit #241A only a portion actually meets the criteria of offering outstanding opportunities. Consequently, the Director has authorized WSA boundary adjustments which will delete those portions which clearly and obviously do not meet these criteria.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Pictographs are found occassionally throughout the area.

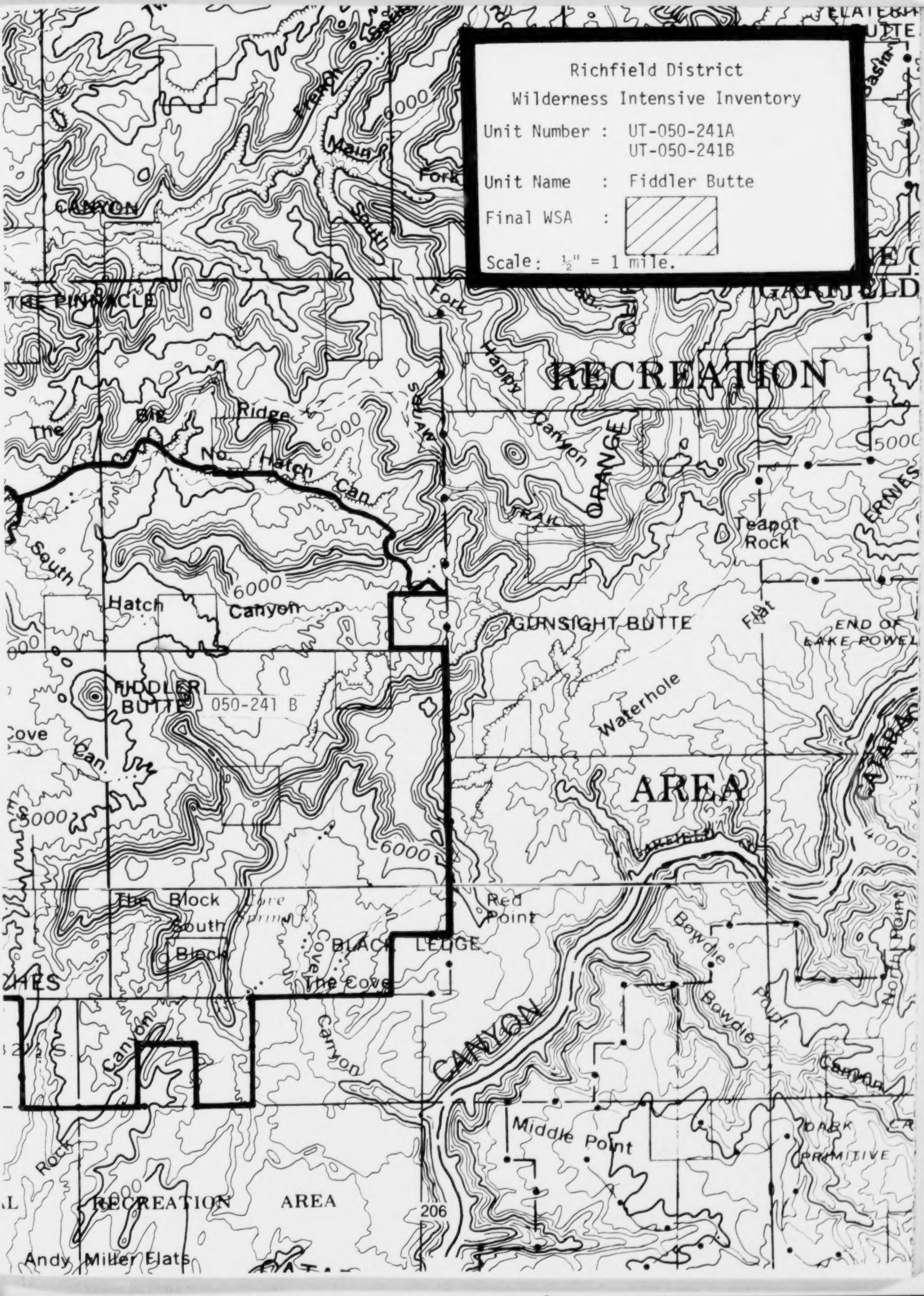
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Most of the respondents felt that a portion of the inventory unit should receive WSA status, but the recommended acreages varied widely. Several supported a "conservationists" recommendation of a 45,000-acre WSA or recommended that Hatch Canyon should be involved in the WSA up to the Poison Springs Canyon Road.

4. DECISION: The portion of sub-unit #241A recommended for WSA is enlarged to include 1,600 acres of Hatch Canyon; 27,000 acres of sub-unit 241A will be identified as a WSA. The balance of sub-unit #241A and the entire sub-unit #241B will be dropped from further study.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Those favoring an enlarged WSA offered no new information which indicated that the BLM evaluation was in error. The adjacent NPS wilderness proposal in the Dirty Devil arm of Glen Canyon Canyon NRA supports the BLM evaluation as all NPS lands west of the Dirty Devil were included, but only that portion below the canyon rim on the east. The portion of Hatch Canyon recommended for inclusion is below the east rim. Reevaluation showed that it did offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, so it is added to the previously proposed WSA.



BURR
DESERT
SAMS MESA
BURR PT
Bert Mesa
POISON SPRING CANYON
Lone Cedar Reservoir
050-241 A
Cedar Point
Turkey Knob
North Wash
Fiddler
RED BENCH
Three Forks
RED BENCH
Trachyte Ranch
Dry Lake Swale
TRACHYTE
HOG SPRINGS RECREATION AREA
POINT
GLEN CANYON NATIONA
Maidenwater Sands
95
276
205
5000



Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-241A
UT-050-241B
Unit Name : Fiddler Butte
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 mile.
RECREATION
AREA
RECREATION AREA
THE PINNACLE
CANYON
The Big Ridge
No. Hatch Can.
South Hatch Canyon
FIDDLER BUTTE
050-241 B
Cove Can.
GUNSIGHT BUTTE
Teapot Rock
END OF LAKE POWELL
Waterhole Flat
Happy Canyon
ORANGE
TRAIL
The Block
South Block
Red Point
BLACK LEDGE
The Cove
Cove Canyon
CANYON
Bowdle Point
Bowdle Canyon
North Point
Middle Point
PRIMITIVE
Rock Canyon
Andy Miller Flats
206

UNIT NO.: UT-050-242 WSA ACREAGE: 11,800

UNIT NAME: BULL MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE: 23,780

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This inventory unit is located in northeast Garfield County. Bull Mountain (elevation 9187') is a prominent peak in the Henry Mountains and is joined to Mt. Ellen by Wickiup Ridge.

The eastern 2/3 of the unit is relatively flat desert and rolling hills. Here, vegetation consists of desert shrubs, sagebrush, and scattered junipers. The western 1/3 of the unit is dominated by Bull Mountain and Wickiup Ridge; both rising abruptly from the surrounding desert.

Pinyon and juniper trees dominate the slopes and Douglas fir is found at the highest elevations.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: This inventory unit includes approximately 23,780 acres of public land.

B. NATURALNESS: The western 1/3 of the unit, including Bull Mountain, the upper Granite Creek drainage, and Wickiup Ridge has remained in its natural condition.

The eastern 2/3 of the unit shows the imprints of man, with a 1500-acre chaining, several reservoirs and many roads and ways.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The western 1/3 of the unit which has remained natural offers outstanding opportunities for solitude in the isolated creek drainages along Wickiup Ridge, and atop Bull Mountain.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The area around Bull Mountain and Wickiup Ridge offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. These include day hiking, overnight camping, photography, sightseeing, and geological study. Despite a substantial amount of steep terrain, there are several access routes to the Bull Mountain summit.

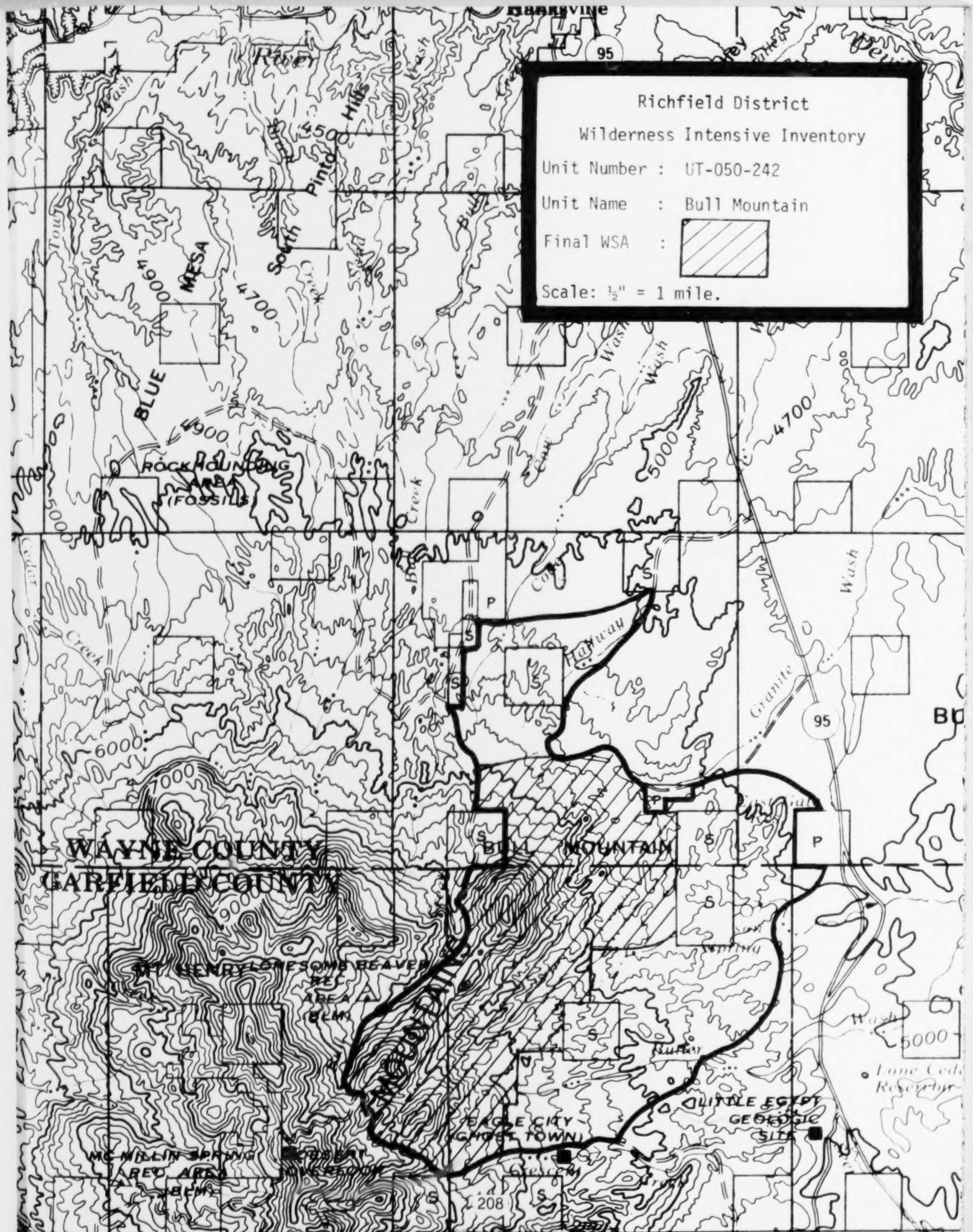
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The most important supplemental values are related to sightseeing and geologic study.

From the summit of Bull Mountain one can see the canyons of the Dirty Devil River and Canyonlands National Park, as well as Mt. Hillers and Mt. Pennell to the south, and Mt. Ellen immediately to the west. Vistas are outstanding, offering the visitor the opportunity to study the geologic features of central Utah. The tilting and uplifting of the sedimentary beds are clearly evident on the east side of Bull Mountain.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Fourteen comments were received on this unit. The pro and con were split equally. Those who felt that the unit should receive a WSA designation all agreed with the BLM proposal for an approximately 12,000-acre WSA. Some thought that the unit does not meet the outstanding opportunities criteria.

4. DECISION: An area of 11,800 acres will be identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The comments did not provide new information. BLM still feels that a portion of the unit meets the criteria for a WSA and should be studied further.



Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-242
Unit Name : Bull Mountain
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 mile.
95
South Pinto Hills
BLUE MESA
ROCKHOUNDING AREA (FOSSILS)
Halfway
Granite
WAYNE COUNTY
GARFIELD COUNTY
BULL MOUNTAIN
MT. HENRY
LONESOME BEAVER REC AREA (BLM)
EAGLE CITY (GHOST TOWN)
LITTLE EGYPT GEOLOGIC SITE
MC MILLIN SPRING REC. AREA (BLM)
208

UNIT NO.: UT-050-244 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: RAGGED MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE: 28,615

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: Ragged Mountain is a prominent peak on the east side of the Henry Mountains in northeastern Garfield County. Elevations rise from 5,200' on the east of the unit to the Ragged Mountain summit, elevation 9113'. Sedimentary formations on the east flank of the mountain have been displaced and tilted.

Crescent, Copper, Slate, and Coyote Creeks are found on the east side of the mountain and are tributaries of the Dirty Devil River.

Vegetation is a sparse covering of sagebrush and rabbitbrush at the lower elevations and pinyon and juniper trees above 6000 feet.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains approximately 28,615 acres of public land.

B. NATURALNESS: Approximately 15,000 acres in the western 1/3 of the unit have remained in their natural condition. This area includes Ragged Mountain, Slate Creek and Raggey Canyon.

The remainder of the unit has several roads, ways, chainings and surface disturbances. The northeast portion has had extensive intrusions associated with uranium exploration.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: While one can experience solitude in some places within the unit. the opportunities are less than outstanding on the majority of the unit due to poor vegetative screening.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The 15,000 acres described as natural, offer some opportunity for recreation. This opportunity is limited almost exclusively to climbing the summit of Ragged Mountain via the ridge reached from the maintained road entering the unit from the north. This climb would cover a distance of one mile, one way, and an elevation gain of 1,000 feet.

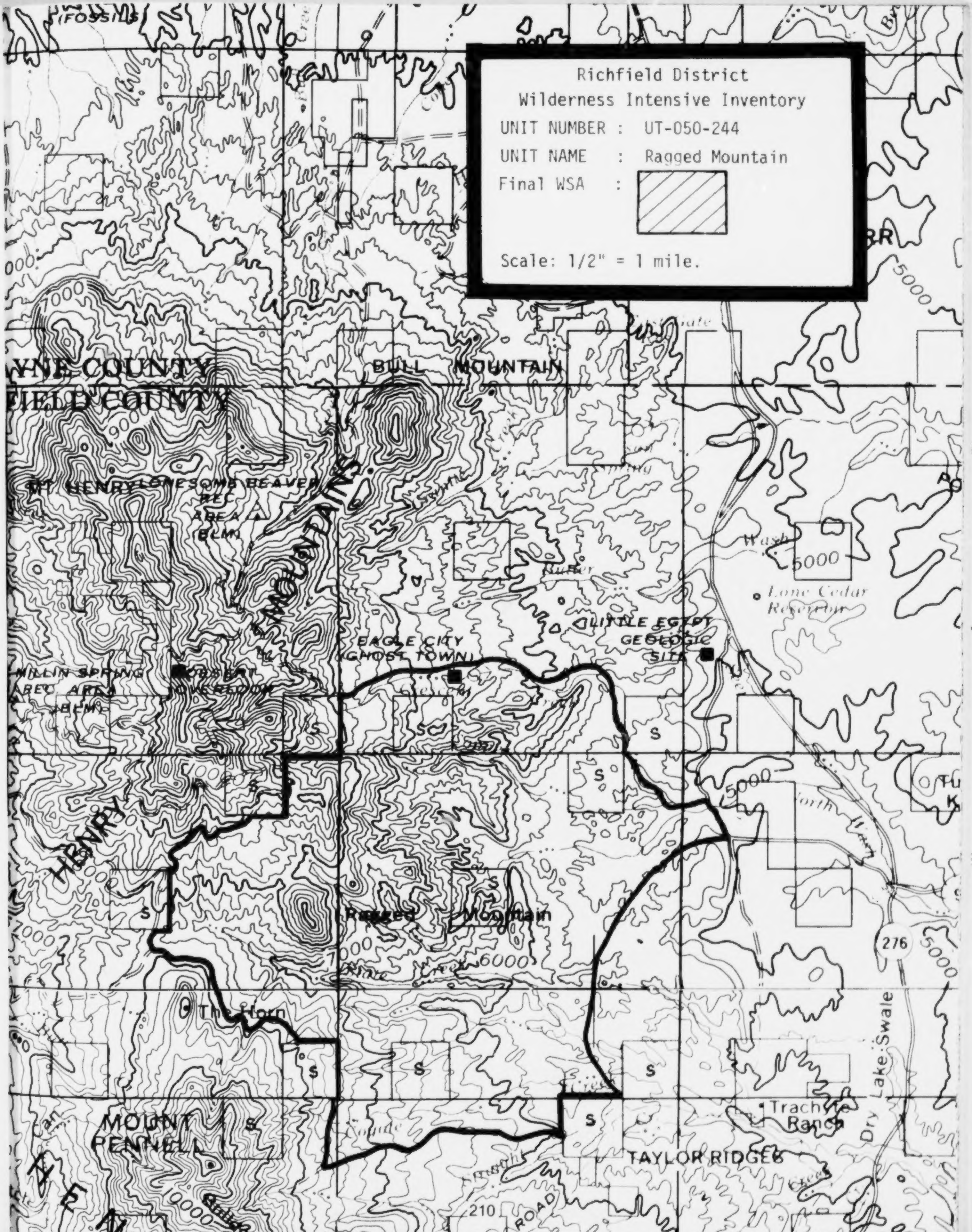
The opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation, while present, is determined to be less than outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: No supplemental values were identified in this unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Eight of the twelve comments favored a WSA for this unit. Most felt that the chainings outside the unit, though highly visible, were not significant enough to have any adverse effect upon the opportunities for solitude.

4. DECISION: This unit will be dropped from further wilderness review.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The comments indicate a perception that the unit was recommended to be dropped from the review because of the visible and adjacent chained areas. The reason for dropping this unit was that it lacks outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The comments failed to provide information that the opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding.


Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
UNIT NUMBER : UT-050-244
UNIT NAME : Ragged Mountain
Final WSA :
Scale: 1/2" = 1 mile.
BULL MOUNTAIN
MOUNTAINS
EAGLE CITY
(GHOST TOWN)
LITTLE EGYPT
GEOLOGIC
SITE
Lone Cedar
Reservoir
HENRY
Ragged Mountain
The Horn
MOUNT
PENNELL
TAYLOR RIDGE
Trachyte
Ranch
Dry Lake Swale
276
210
ROAD

UNIT NO.: UT-050-247 WSA ACREAGE: 38,700

UNIT NAME: LITTLE ROCKIES UNIT ACREAGE: 66,060

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The Little Rockies inventory unit contains Mt. Ellsworth (8,235') and Mt. Holmes (7,930'). It is southeast of state highways U-276 and U-95 and is adjacent to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The eastern side of the Little Rockies has massive slick rock formations. The area is sparsely vegetated by desert shrub types.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 66,060 acres of public land.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit has generally retained its natural character. Imprints of man are found on the north and south ends of the unit and also near the highway on the west. Minerals assessment and oil exploration have left ways and seismic lines.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: On the eastern side of the Little Rockies outstanding opportunities for solitude are abundant. Slickrock canyons provide topographic screening which enhances the chance of finding solitude.

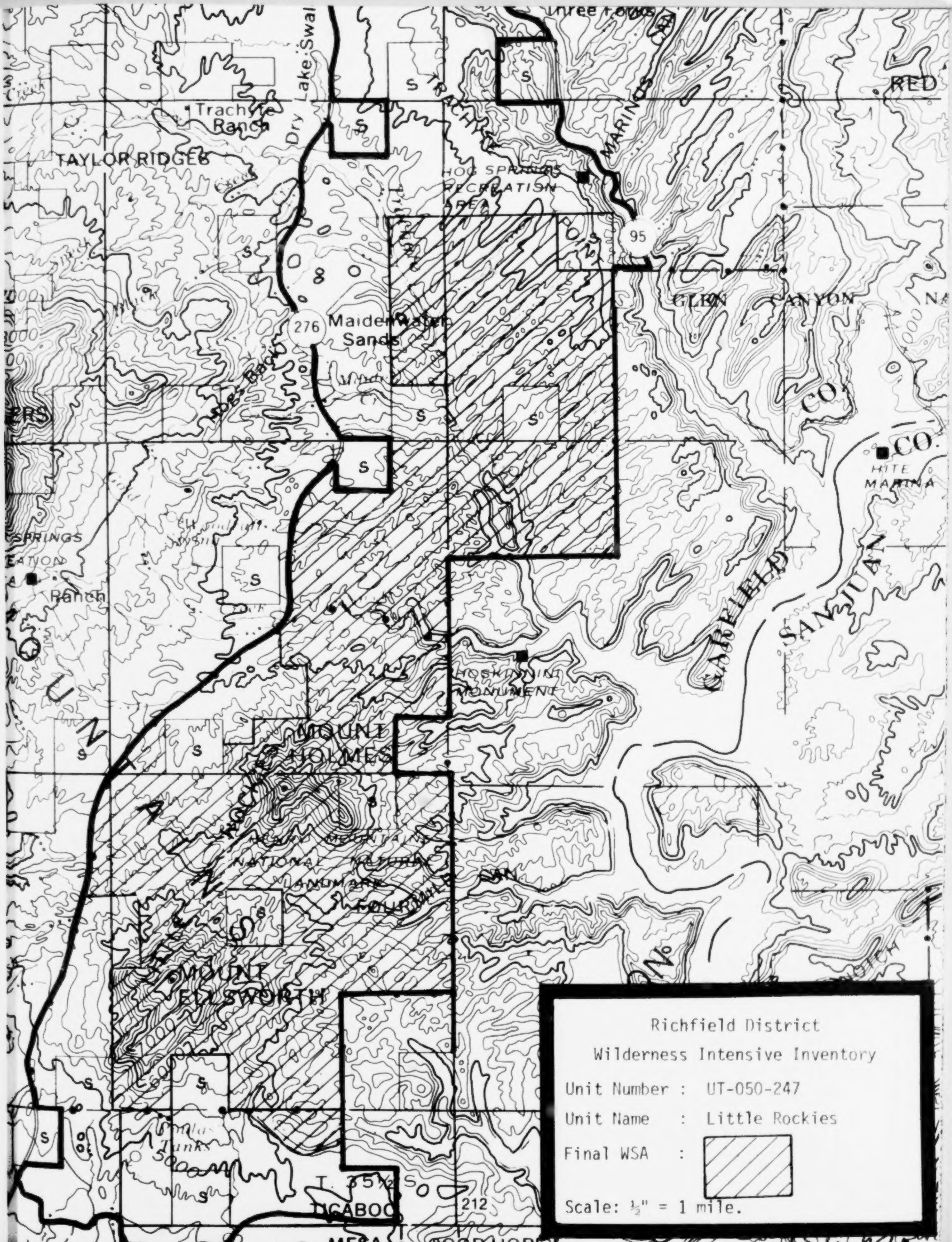
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: There are excellent opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Visitors already use the area for hiking, sightseeing, rockhounding and nature study. The geology of the Little Rockies is so interesting and well preserved that it was designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1975.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Desert bighorn sheep are found within the unit. It also has scenic values and is of geologic interest.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Most of the respondents favored a WSA for this unit and concurred with the BLM rationale. Only five opposed a WSA within the unit, but did not provide new information. Four respondents thought the WSA should be enlarged on the northern and southern part of the unit as naturalness has been retained.

4. DECISION: The WSA will be enlarged to include a portion of Mt. Ellsworth which has retained naturalness. A WSA of 38,700 acres will be identified.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: There was general agreement among respondents with the rationale to designate a WSA for the unit. New information in some comments revealed that some of the north slope of Mt. Ellsworth qualified as a WSA. Boundaries have been adjusted to include portions on the north and south slope.



Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-247
Unit Name : Little Rockies
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 mile.
Trachyte Ranch
TAYLOR RIDGE
Dry Lake Swale
HOG SPRINGS RECREATION AREA
95
276
Maidenwater Sands
GLEN CANYON
HITE MARINA
GARFIELD
SAN JUAN
HOSKINNINI MONUMENT
MOUNT HOLMES
MOUNT ELLSWORTH
HENRY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK
TICABOO
MESA
GOOD HOPE
212
RED
S

UNIT NO.: UT-050-248 — WSA ACREAGE: 27,300

UNIT NAME: MT. PENNELL — UNIT ACREAGE: 159,650

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is east of Capitol Reef National Park in Garfield County and exhibits a wide variety of topography and vegetation. Vegetative types include desert shrubs, pinyon-juniper woodlands, scrub oak, yellow pine woodlands, spruce-fir forests and subalpine grasslands. Several creeks have carved deep canyons on all sides of Mt. Pennell. South of Mt. Pennell, Mancos shale badlands have been deeply eroded by Bullforg and Muley Creeks and their tributaries.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit contains 159,650 acres of public land and 19,800 acres of state and private land. During the field review, roads were identified which bisect the unit north to south. Accordingly, the unit was divided into subunits, and inventoried separately.

B. NATURALNESS: In subunit #248A man's imprints include several chainings, access roads and "ways" on Tarantula Mesa and Cave Flat and an airstrip on Cave Flat. Portions of Tarantula and Swap Mesas have remained in a natural condition.

In subunit #248B intrusions include an access road and a relay station on Mt. Pennell, cabins and mining surface disturbances on Straight Creek and exploration disturbances in the southern portion. The northern half of subunit #248B has remained natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Subunit #248A lacks both topographic and vegetative screening. The flatness of the mesas and the scattered vegetative cover provide little opportunity for avoiding the sights and sounds of others. The opportunities for solitude are not considered to be outstanding.

The natural portion of subunit #248B surrounding Mt. Pennell contains many creeks, drainages, ridges and canyons which provide excellent topographic screening and a wide variety of vegetation, including thick stands of pinyon-juniper, gambels, oak, spruce and aspen. The varied topography combined with the relative density of vegetative cover, provides opportunities for solitude which are outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: A variety of recreational opportunities are available including hiking, backpacking, camping, photography, sightseeing, wildlife observations, and mountain climbing. In subunit #248A, the lack of topographic and vegetative variety provides recreational opportunities which are not considered outstanding.

That portion of sub-unit #248B remaining natural has a diversity of land forms and a variety of vegetation which provides outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

NOTE: Because of these distinct differences in both topography and vegetative cover found with the unit, only portions actually meet the outstanding opportunities criteria. In view of this, the Director has authorized boundary adjustments of the WSA proposal which retain for further study only those portions which meet these criteria.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The Henry Mountains are of geologic interest as an example of laccolithic formations deforming their host sedimentary formations.

The Henry Mountain bison herd utilizes the area between Pipe Spring Canyon and The Horn as their summer range.

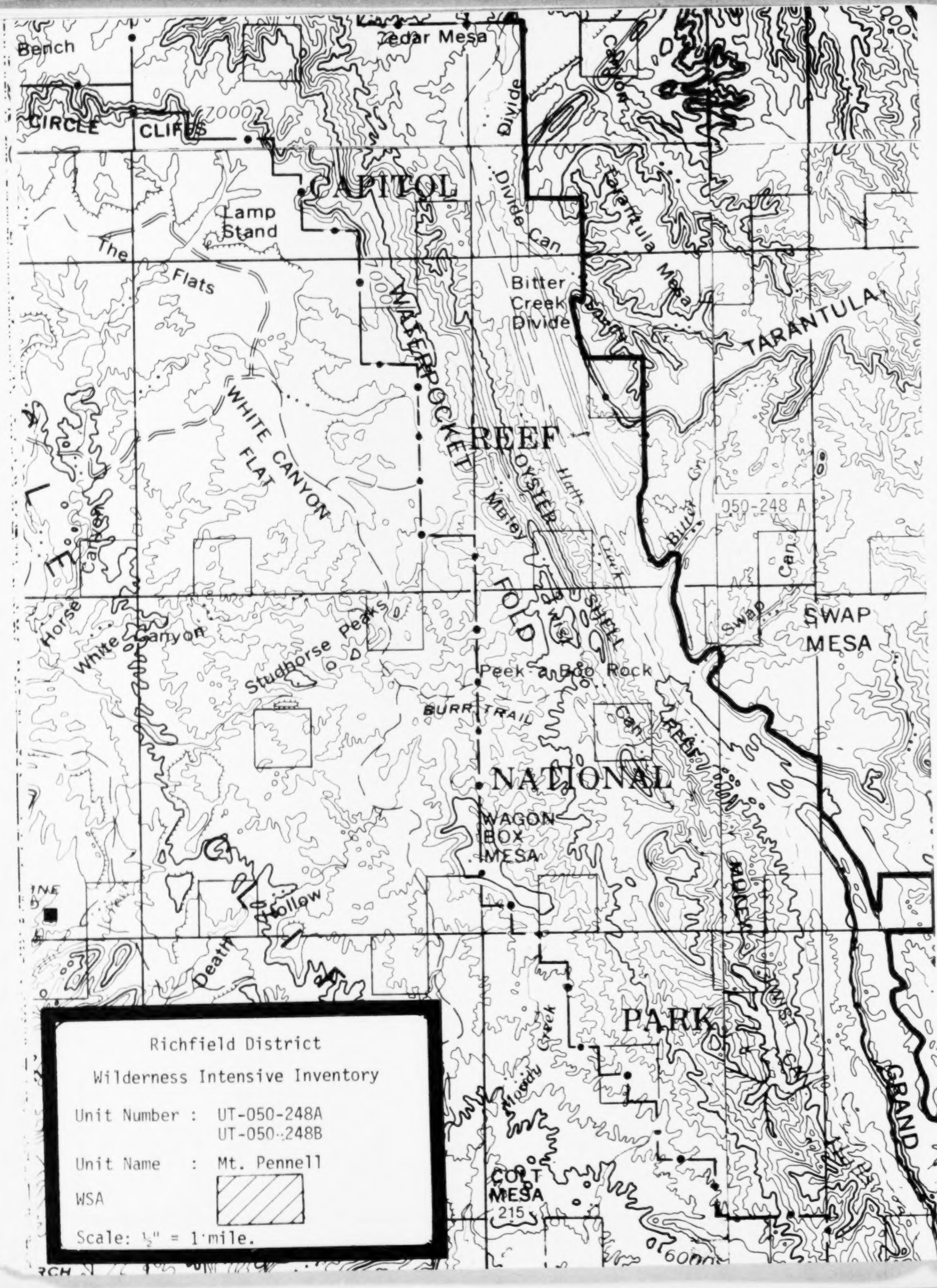
The scenery from the upper elevations of Mt. Pennell provides oustanding vistas.

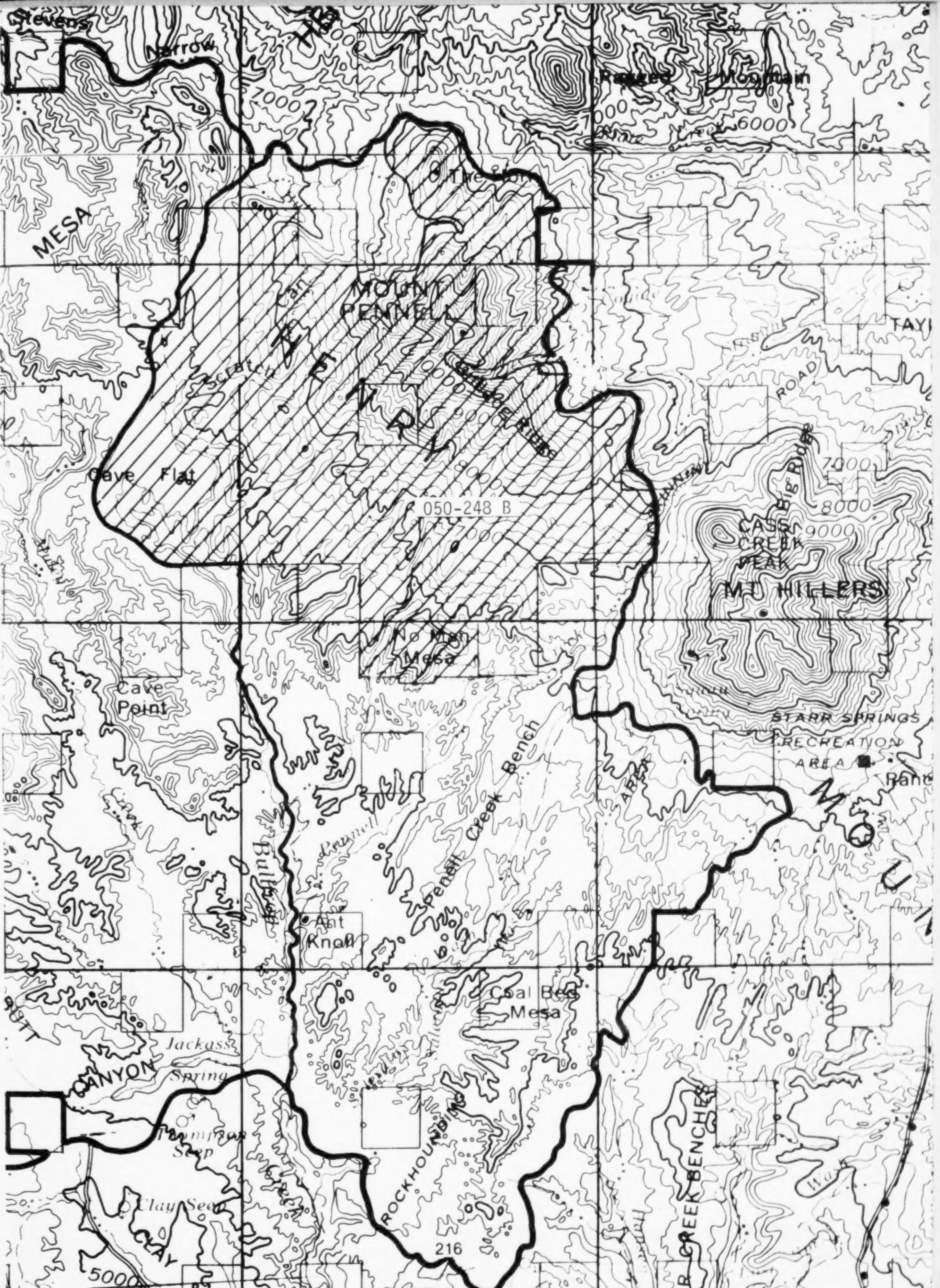
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A majority of the thirty-seven respondents favored a WSA for this unit, however, there was little agreement as to size. Recommendations ranged from 26,000 acres to 159,000 acres (the entire inventory unit). Several favored a 60,000 to 80,000-acre WSA. Reasons given for adding a WSA in 248A were primarily that the sub-unit did offer outstanding opportunities. Some thought that WSA in subunit #248B should be larger than the 26,000 acres proposed by BLM.

4. DECISION: Sub-unit #248A will be dropped from further review, and the WSA in sub-unit #248B will be modified to include the portion known as The Horn - an additional 1,300 acres. A WSA of 27,300 acres will be designated.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The comments failed to provide information that subunit #248A did provide opportunities which are outstanding. Therefore, the decision on this subunit was not changed.

As a result of comments, sub-unit #248B was reviewed and the boundaries found to have been delineated as closely as possible to intruded areas and state lands on the west and east. The south boundary was set in accordance with the Director's authorization to make boundary adjustments which would retain for WSA designation only those portions of the unit meeting the outstanding opportunities criteria, as noted above. The portion of the unit north of the WSA, including The Horn, was re-evaluated and determined to offer outstanding opportunities for mountain climbing. Therefore, approximately 1,300 acres were addded to the WSA proposal.


Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-248A
UT-050-248B
Unit Name : Mt. Pennell
WSA
Scale: ½" = 1 mile.
CAPITOL
REEF
NATIONAL
PARK
WATERPOCKET
FOLD
Cedar Mesa
Bench
CIRCLE CLIFFS
Divide
Divide Can.
Lamp Stand
The Flats
Bitter Creek Divide
Tarantula Mesa
TARANTULA
WHITE CANYON FLAT
OYSTER SHELL
Muley
050-248 A
SWAP MESA
Swap
Horse Canyon
White Canyon
Studhorse Peaks
Peek a Boo Rock
BURR TRAIL
WAGON BOX MESA
Hollow
Death
Muddy Creek
COLT MESA
215
GRAND


Stevens
Narrow
Ragged Mountain
MESA
MOUNT PENNELL
HENRY
Cave Flat
050-248 B
CASS CREEK PEAK
MT HILLERS
Big Ridge
ROAD
No Man Mesa
Cave Point
STARR SPRINGS RECREATION AREA
Pennell Creek Bench
Ant Knoll
Coal Bed Mesa
Jackass Spring
CANYON
Clay Seep
CLAY
ROCKHOUND
CREEK BENCHES
216
5000
7000
6000
8000
9000

UNIT NO: UT-050-249 WSA ACREAGE: 20,000

UNIT NAME: MT. HILLERS UNIT ACREAGE: 27,122

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The Mt. Hillers inventory unit is in northeast Garfield County, Utah, approximately 30 miles south of Hanksville.

Mt. Hillers is a high central peak (elevation 10,723'), surrounded by several prominent lower peaks. They effectively screen the summit from view as one approaches the mountain.

Mt. Hillers is a large igneous intrusion of diorite porphyry surrounded by shattered sedimentary rocks. Away from the central core these sedimentary rocks are tilted on end. The peak has steep, rugged slopes, and many unnamed drainages reaching high up the mountainside.

The west and north sides have thick pinyon and juniper, mountain mahogany, common juniper, shrub oak and aspen. At the higher elevations, ponderosa pine and Douglas fir are found. A large stand of Bristlecone pine is found high on the north side.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The inventory unit includes approximately 27,122 acres of public land.

B. NATURALNESS: Approximately 20,000 acres in the central portion of the unit, including Mt. Hillers, have remained natural.

Extensive mining and mining exploration activity has occurred in the northern part of the unit. On the west side, a short road goes to a reservoir. Another road goes to some mining assessment work and miner's cabin near Cass Creek Peak. On the south side is the BLM Starr Springs Campground and several ways leading to drill pads. On the east side a road leads to the Cock's Comb.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Despite the number of intrusions it is still possible to find outstanding solitude in many areas. Mt. Hillers has an irregular configuration with a central peak and several "satellite" peaks surrounding it on ridges radiating out from the center. These ridges are separated from each other by at least ten large drainages reaching far up the mountain, providing topographic screening.

Vegetative screening also enhances solitude. Thick stands of trees on the north and west sides screen visitors from each other.

Even at the summit, vegetation is dense except where there are large rock outcroppings. Due to the topography and vegetation, few, if any marks of man are visible from the summit.

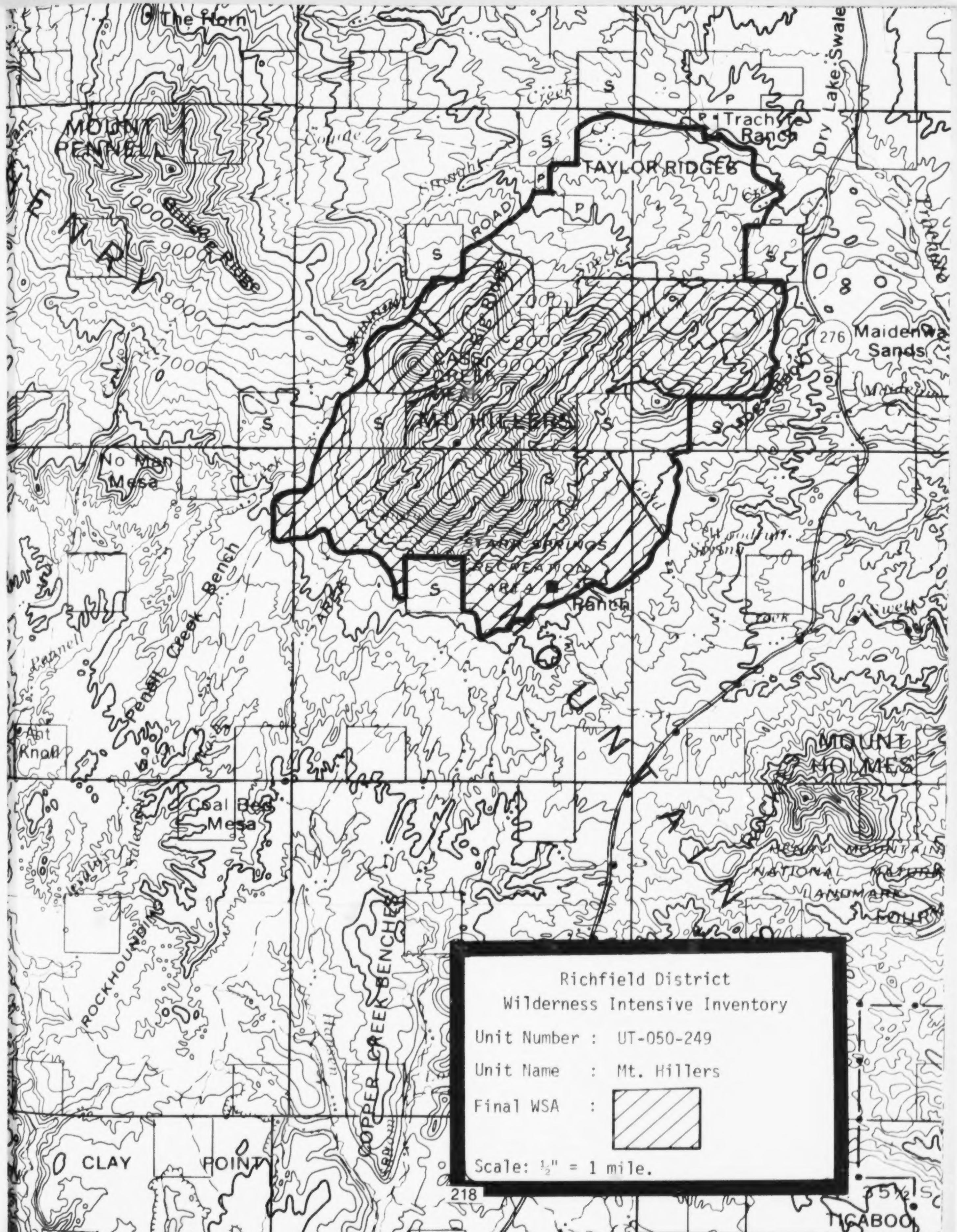
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Mt. Hillers offers a limited number of recreational opportunities. However, those opportunities available are judged to be outstanding, including dayhiking, camping, sightseeing, botanical study, and geological study.

Mt. Hillers contains some of the most rugged, challenging terrain in the Henry Mountains for hiking and climbing.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Eighteen of the twenty-six comments favored a WSA for this unit, and most agreed with the BLM rationale for a 20,000 acre WSA. Two respondents felt the WSA should be larger than proposed.

4. DECISION: Identify 20.000 acres of this unit as a Wilderness Study Area.

5. Rationale for Decision: Most of the respondents concurred with the BLM rationale for a 20,000 acre WSA. This 20,000 acres is the portion of the unit determined to be natural during the inventory. To add acreage would be to include land not meeting the criteria of naturalness, due to imprints of man.


Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-249
Unit Name : Mt. Hillers
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 mile.
The Horn
MOUNT PENNELL
TAYLOR RIDGES
Trachyte Ranch
Dry Lake Swale
Maidenwa
Sands
276
MT. HILLERS
No Man Mesa
Pennell Creek Bench
Ant Knoll
Coal Bed Mesa
ROCKHOUNDING
COPPER CREEK BENCHES
MOUNT HOLMES
CLAY
POINT
TICABOO
218
Ranch
S
P

UNIT NO.: UT-050-253 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: LONG CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 16,550

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: Capitol Reef National Park adjoins the unit on the west and Glen Canyon NRA on the south.

The northern half of the unit is a juniper covered mesa, while the southern portion is represented by a sparsely vegetated bench and equally barren canyon bottoms.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: This inventory unit includes approximately 16,550 acres of public land.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit is generally natural and Long Canyon bottom is free of all noticeable imprints of man. The benches above the canyon show signs of range improvements (access ways, reservoirs and holding pens) and mineral assessment work. Imprints are tied to the eastern boundary road.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The possibility for solitude exists within Long Canyon; but, due to a lack of vegetative screening and topographic relief, the area does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

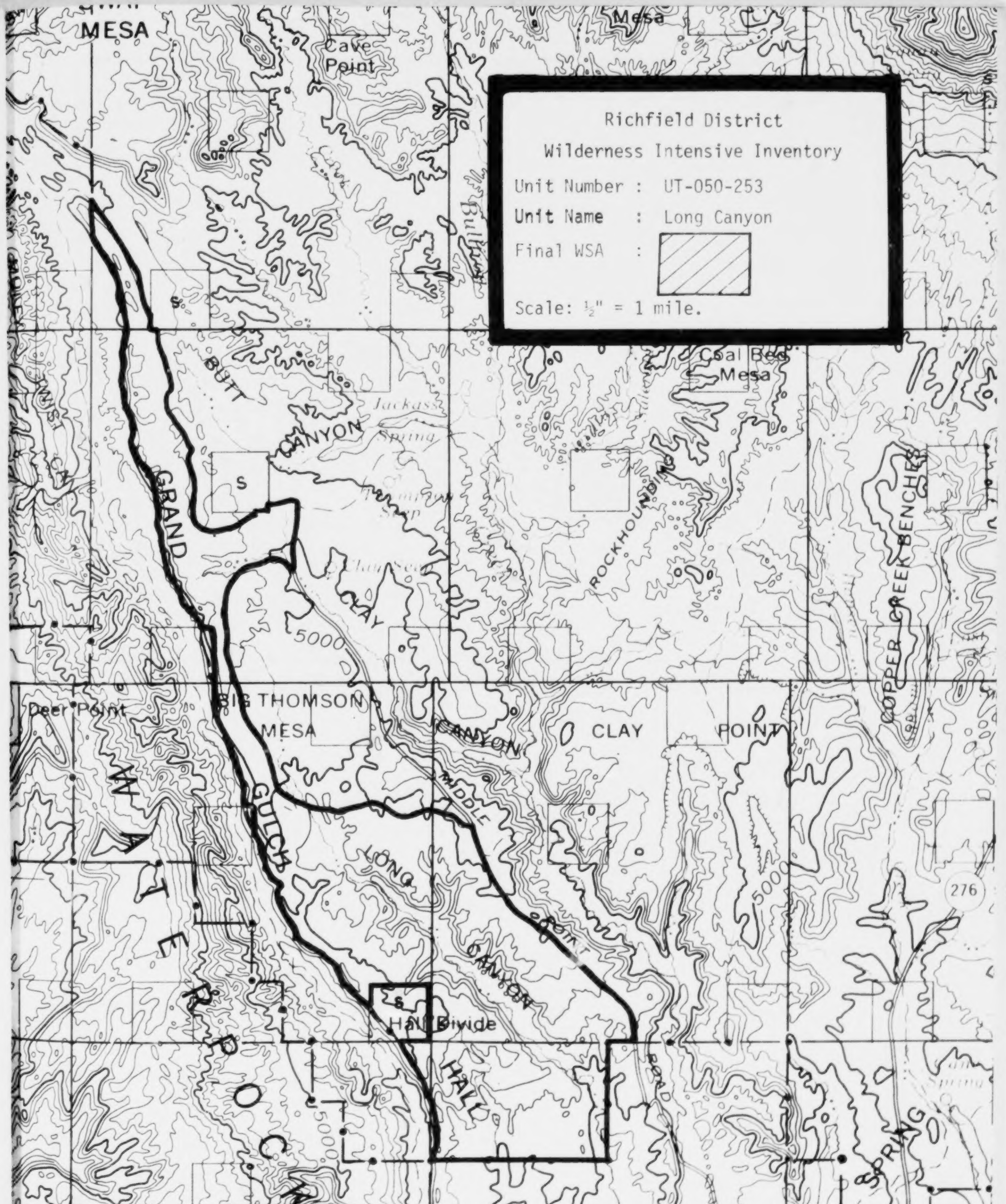
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, rockhounding, and sightseeing may be enjoyed within the unit, but the opportunities are not considered to be outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None identified.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Of the seven (7) respondents, four supported the BLM rationale to drop the unit. Three (3) recommended a WSA for the unit, but did not provide supporting information. Two (2) of those favoring a WSA thought proximity to Capitol Reef National Park enhanced wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: Drop the unit from further study.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Those comments favoring a WSA did not provide valid reasons for their recommendations. As a unit must stand on its own merit rather than its proximity to Capitol Reef. No information was received which would indicate that the BLM evaluation was in error.


Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-253
Unit Name : Long Canyon
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 mile.
MESA
Cave Point
Mesa
BUTT CANYON
Jackass Spring
Coal Bed Mesa
ROCKHOUNDING
COPPER CREEK BENCHES
GRAND GULCH
CLAY
5000
Deer Point
BIG THOMSON MESA
CANYON
CLAY POINT
MIDDLE
LONG CANYON
POINT
276
Hall Divide
HALL
WATERPOCKET
220
MESA
CANE SPRING
6000

UNIT NO.: UT-050-257 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: NOTOM BENCH UNIT ACREAGE: 8,975

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is immediately east of Capitol Reef National Park in Wayne County. It is approximately 10 miles long and 2½ miles wide, and is between the park boundary and the Notom Road. The National Park Service is proposing wilderness for the area adjacent to this unit. The unit is characterized by sparsely vegetated, low rolling hills on the eastern edge of the Waterpocket Fold. Six creeks, which originate in Boulder Mountain, cross the unit from west to east. These creeks are wide and open on the east, narrowing gradually near the park boundary.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains approximately 8,975 acres of public land.

B. NATURALNESS: Most of the unit has remained in a natural condition. There are several ways and a reservoir in the unit. All are substantially unnoticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Opportunities for solitude within the unit are less than outstanding. Topographic screening is minimal in shallow washes. Vegetative screening is minimal as most of the low hillsides have only a sparse cover of shrubs and juniper trees.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Recreational opportunities are related to people backpacking or day hiking across the unit to reach the narrow canyons in the National Park. The opportunities within the unit are limited and less than outstanding.

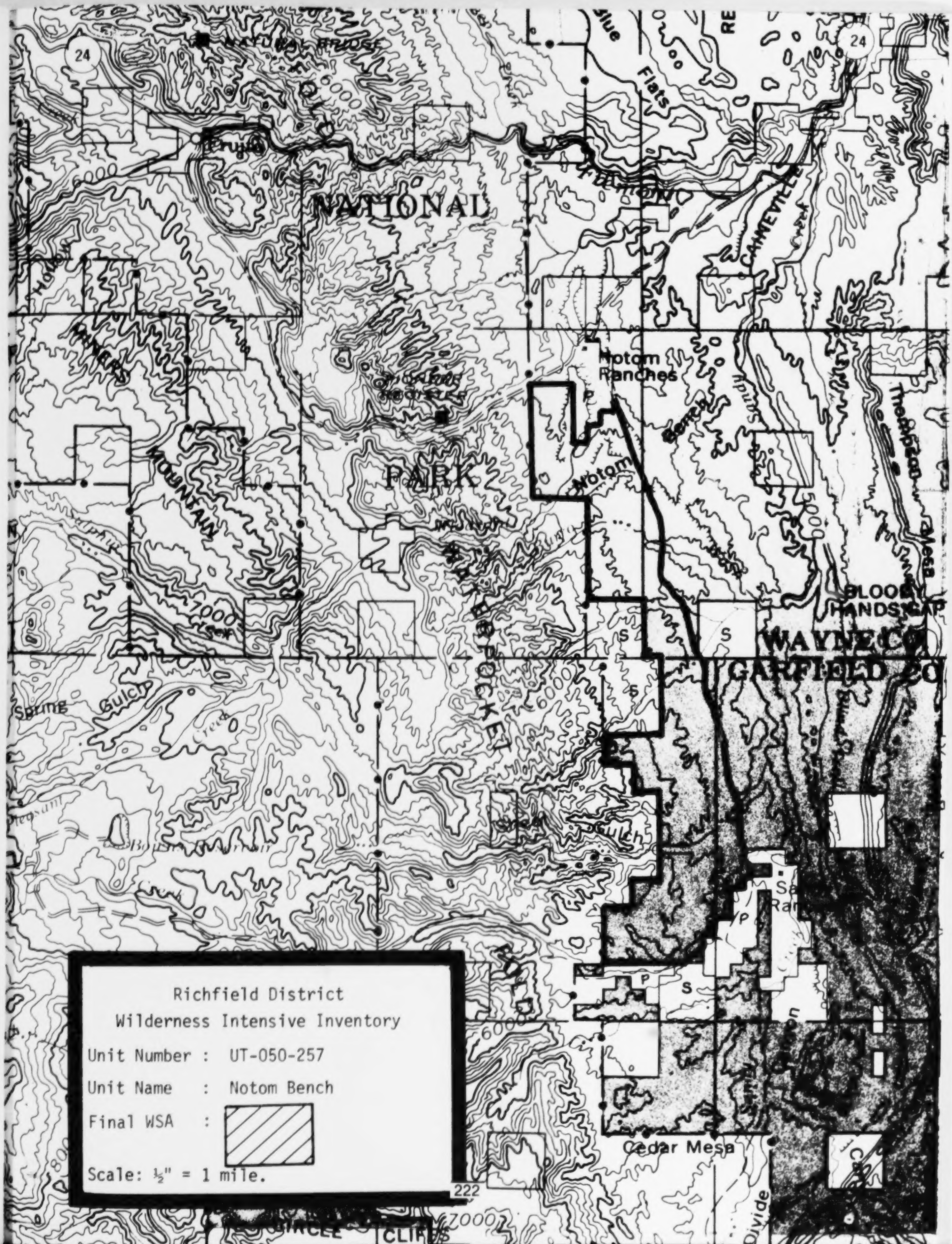
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Supplemental values include geologic, scientific, scenic and educational values associated with the Waterpocket Fold.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Only five (5) comments were received. Three (3) supported the BLM rationaleto drop the unit from further study. The rationale given by the two (2) respondents favoring a WSA was based on the contiguity of the unit to Capitol Reef National Park.

4. DECISION: Drop the unit from further study.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No information was received from the respondents which warrants changing the proposed decision to drop the unit from further study.

Under the BLM Inventory Guidelines, BLM land must meet the wilderness criteria even though it is adjacent to another agency's wilderness proposals. The BLM still feels the area does not meet either of the "outstanding opportunities" criteria necessary for wilderness.


Richfield District
Wilderness Intensive Inventory
Unit Number : UT-050-257
Unit Name : Notom Bench
Final WSA :
Scale: ½" = 1 mile.
24
24
NATURAL BRIDGE
Fruita
Fremont
Flats
CAINEVILLE
NATIONAL
PARK
MINERS
MOUNTAIN
WATERPOCKET
FOLD
Notom
Ranches
Notom
Bench
Sandy
Thompson
BLOODY HANDS GAP
WAYNE CO
GARFIELD CO
Spring Gulch
Gulch
Cedar Mesa
Divide
CIRCLE CLIFFS
7000
6000
5000
S
P

MOAB DISTRICT

Intensive Inventory

Inventory Number	Unit Name	Identified as a WSA	Not Identified as a WSA
UT-060-023	Sids Mountain	X	
UT-060-025	Devils Canyon	X	
UT-060-026	North Big Ridge		X
UT-060-028A	Crack Canyon	X	
UT-060-028B	Cistern Canyon		X
UT-060-028C	Chute Canyon		X
UT-060-029A	San Rafael Reed	X	
UT-060-045	Horseshoe Canyon	X	
UT-060-053	Cedar Mountain		X
UT-060-054	Mexican Mountain	X	
UT-060-067	Turtle Canyon	X	
UT-060-068A	Desolation Canyon	X	
UT-060-068B	Floy Canyon		X
UT-060-070	Jack Creek		X
UT-060-072	Dry Canyon		X
UT-060-075	Harmon Canyon		X
UT-060-076	Cow Canyon		X
UT-060-077	Argyle Ridge		X
UT-060-088	South Goose Neck		X
UT-060-100A	Westwater Creek		X
UT-060-100B	Diamond Canyon	X	
UT-060-100C	Cottonwood Canyon	X	
UT-060-116/117	Wrigley Mesa/Jones Canyon	X	
UT-060-118	West Water Canyon	X	
UT-060-119	Big Triangle		X
UT-060-120	Renegade Point		X
UT-060-122	Granite Creek		X
UT-060-131A	North Lost Spring Canyon		X
UT-060-131B	South Lost Spring Canyon	X	
UT-060-137	Mary Jane Canyon		X
UT-060-138	Negro Bill Canyon		X
UT-060-139A	Mill Creek	X	
UT-060-140A	Behind the Rocks	X	
UT-060-164	Lockhart Basin	X	
UT-060-165	Sixshooter Peak		X
UT-060-167	Bridger Jack Mesa	X	
UT-060-169	Butler Wash	X	
UT-060-171	Sweet Alice Canyon		X
UT-060-175	Middle Point	X	
UT-060-181	Mancos Mesa		X
UT-060-188	Pine Canyon	X	
UT-060-191	Cheese Box Canyon	X	
UT-060-194	Harmony Flat		X
UT-060-196	Bullet Canyon	X	
UT-060-197/198	Slickhorn Canyon	X	

MOAB DISTRICT

Intensive Inventory

Inventory Number	Unit Name	Identified as a WSA	Not Identified as a WSA
UT-060-201	Road Canyon	X	
UT-060-204	Fish Creek Canyon	X	
UT-060-205A	Arch Canyon		X
UT-060-205B	Mule Canyon	X	
UT-060-224	Sheiks Canyon	X	
UT-060-227	Squaw & Papoose Canyons	X	
UT-060-229	Cross Canyon	X	
UT-060-232	Little Ruin Canyon		X

UNIT NUMBER UT-060-023 WSA ACREAGE 80,530

UNIT NAME SIDS MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE 93,000

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in the San Rafael Swell region of Emery County. It is about 15 miles southwest of Castle Dale and lies between the Wedge Overlook and Interstate 70. It includes Sids Mountain, a portion of the San Rafael River, and numerous canyons, spires and benches of the western San Rafael Swell.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit, 93,000 acres of BLM administered land, meets the 5,000 acre size requirement. Within the unit boundaries lie an additional 7,840 acres of State land and 440 acres of private land. The unit is approximately 8 miles wide and 22 miles long and lies on a northeast-southwest axis.

B. NATURALNESS: Evidence of human activities within the unit appear to be associated with range and highway management, and with mineral or oil and gas exploration. Loss of naturalness has occurred in the north and south portions of the unit due to the concentrations of significant human imprints. Two areas have also been isolated from the bulk of the unit by human imprints and/or State land ownership patterns. The majority of the unit (90 percent) appears natural and untrammeled by man. Due to public comment, field checking was conducted. An additional 5,030 acres were found to be unnatural in character. Approximately 12 miles of roads, a cabin and corral, concentration of ORV use and damage, a visitor overlook, and recent mineral exploration were identified.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The rugged incised topography of the majority of the unit is conducive to outstanding opportunities for solitude. A lack of topographic relief, a lack of vegetative screening, and area configuration preclude outstanding opportunities for solitude in those areas already severed by human imprints and land ownership patterns.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding in the majority of the area. Activities such as challenging canyon hiking, camping and river recreation provided by the San Rafael River and the canyons of the San Rafael Swell offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains archaeological, scenic and geologic supplemental values. A portion of the unit is in the Buckhorn Wash Archaeological District listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The scenic and geologic values are found in the dramatic incised topography found throughout the unit. Hanging gardens are found throughout the unit as well.

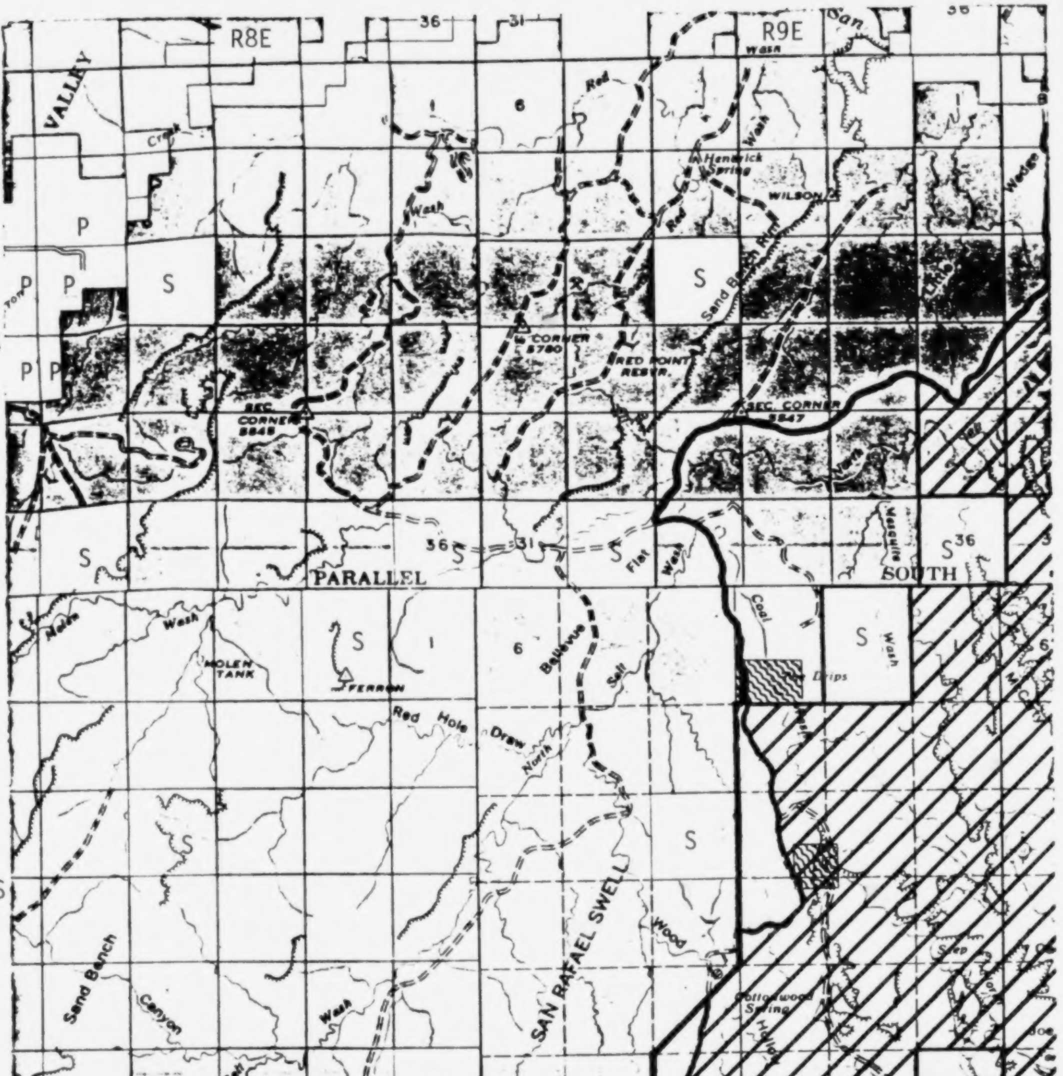
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Forty comments were received; nine general and 31 specific. Eight general comments were supportive of a WSA designation, one gave no recommendation. Seventeen specific comments favored a WSA status, six were against, and eight gave no recommendation. Four government group responses, eight other group responses, one industry and business response, and 27 individual responses were represented in the total count of 40.

Twelve comments which either opposed WSA status or gave no recommendation identified roads in Cane Wash, Saddle Horse Canyon, North Fork of Coal Wash, McCarty Bottom, Wood Hollow, Cactus Flats, Head of Sinbad to Coal Wash, and along the San Rafael River in the northeast; maps were used in two cases. Two other comments mention a road, corral and cabin near the San Rafael River. Three comments address mineral exploration. Sights and sounds outside the unit were listed by five respondents. One respondent compared the area to "many other" places in the state. Supplemental values were identified by two respondents. Other concerns addressed in the comments included: the presence of State sections, lack of uniqueness, mineral and range potential, wilderness conflicts with "rockhounding", access and boundary line management.

Two comments in favor of a WSA status identified "prominent ways" and "insignificant" mining roads. Twelve specific comments addressed the elimination of unnatural areas and agreed with the remaining natural character of the unit. Screening potential of the vegetation and topography was specifically identified by seven comments in relation to solitude. Recreation opportunities were listed by 14 respondents, supporting the original proposal. Supplemental values were cited and emphasized the original proposal. Several respondents felt reclamation of imprints would take place naturally. Non-wilderness criteria observations included references to land exchange and "questionable/marginal" mining practices. Two modifications in the boundary was suggested by one respondent.

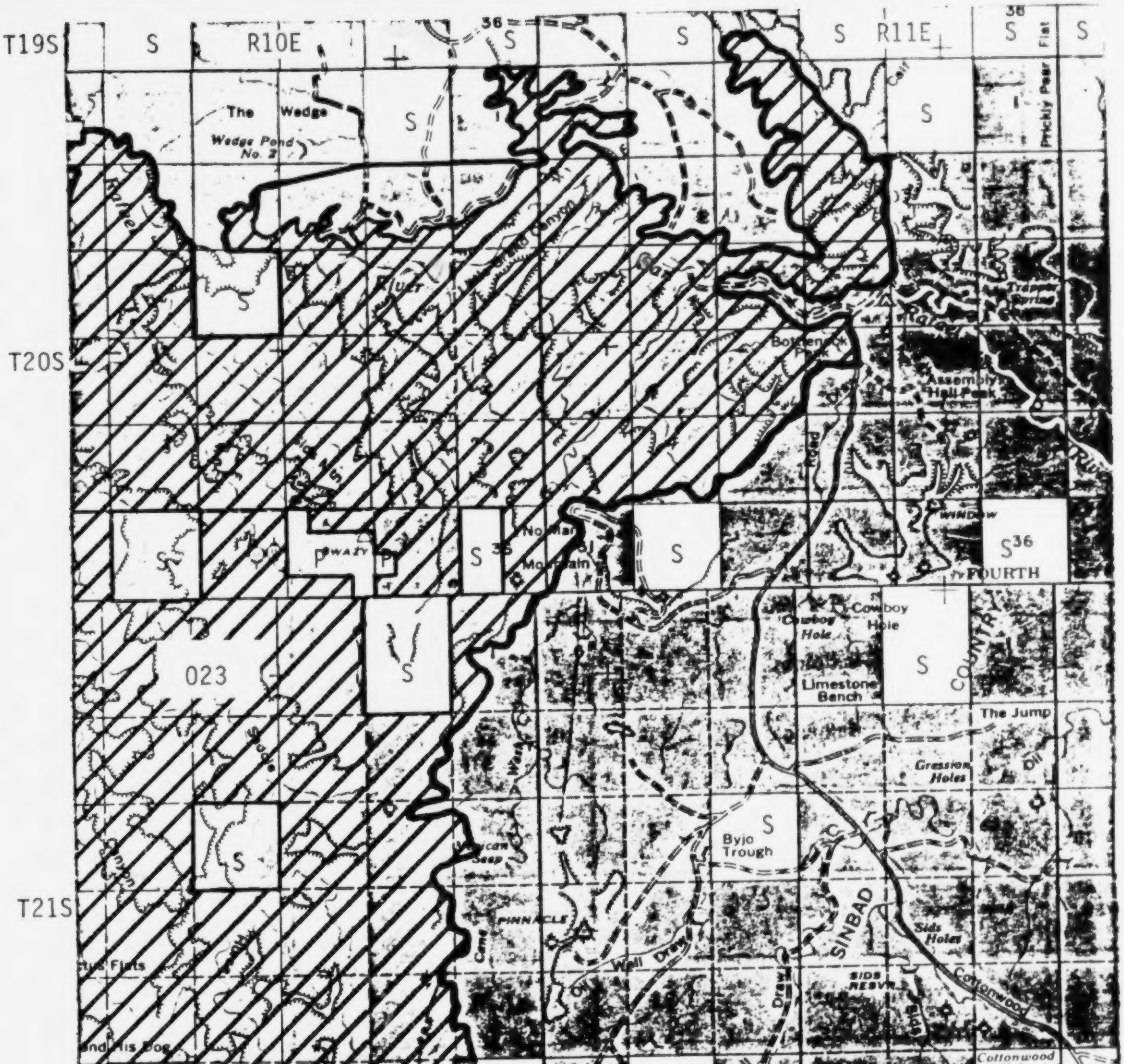
4. DECISION: Sids Mountain WSA, containing 80,530 acres, will be identified with the boundary adjustments as an amendment to the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION: Additional imprints described in public comments were confirmed at the head of Saddle Horse Canyon, Wood Hollow, and in the northeast portion of the San Rafael River. These imprints include approximately 12 miles of roads, a cabin and corral, concentration of ORV use and damage and recent mineral exploration. The acreage involved totals approximately 5,030 acres that will be eliminated from the WSA proposal. Except for the data regarding additional imprints, no new information relevant to primary wilderness criteria was provided by public comments. Comments in reference to use conflicts, mineral values, comparisons with other areas and other concerns not related to the primary wilderness criteria cannot be considered during the intensive inventory. Many of these will be considered during the study phase.



UT-060-023 - SID'S MOUNTAIN
(Sheet 1 Of 2 - West Half)
½" = 1 mile SIDS MOUNTAIN WSA
MDO-8/80

LEGEND - (unit boundary symbol) - Unit Boundary
(WSA symbol) - WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands



UT-060-023 - SID'S MOUNTAIN
(Sheet 2 of 2 - East Half)

LEGEND - Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
SIDS MOUNTAIN WSA
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-025 WSA ACREAGE: 9,610

UNIT NAME: DEVILS CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 24,050

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in the San Rafael Swell region of Emery County. Devils Canyon is a major drainage in the unit. The borders of the unit are defined by roads, with one State section on the north and another on the northeast being excluded. The unit consists of several incised drainages as well as undulated table lands. The Link Flats Instant Study Area (ISA) overlaps approximately 200 acres into the unit and is split by the southern border.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit, 24,050 acres of BLM administered land, meets the 5,000 acre size requirement. Within the unit boundaries lie an additional 1,280 acres of State land. The unit is approximately 10 miles long and 4 miles wide.

B. NATURALNESS: The placement of human imprints is predominantly in the southern, western, and north-central portions of the unit. The imprints consist of 3 drill sites, 4 miles of continuous seismograph line, 7 stock reservoirs, 1 stock corral, 1 mile of fence, 2 mines, 1 airstrip, approximately 14 miles of ways, and an approximate .50 mile road. Due to the concentration, plus substantial noticeability of these imprints, loss of naturalness has occurred in the southern, western, and north-central portions of the unit. In the remaining central area of the unit, human imprints are minimal leaving this area relatively natural and untrammeled by man.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The western portion of the unit offers limited opportunities for solitude due to the size and narrow configuration of the area that is isolated from the bulk of the unit by substantially noticeable imprints. Also, the area lacks topographic and vegetative screening. In the eastern portion of the unit lies a narrow configuration of land between the boundary and state inholding of T. 23 S., R. 9 E., Section 16. Size and the narrow configuration of this area, plus the lack of topographic and vegetative screening, do not lend to an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The central portion of the unit, which contains the narrow, deeply incised and labyrinthine part of Devils Canyon provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding in limited amounts and in specific areas. Drainage bottoms of the canyon system would provide the most outstanding opportunities, such as hiking and backpacking. The remaining character of the unit is not conducive to outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities.

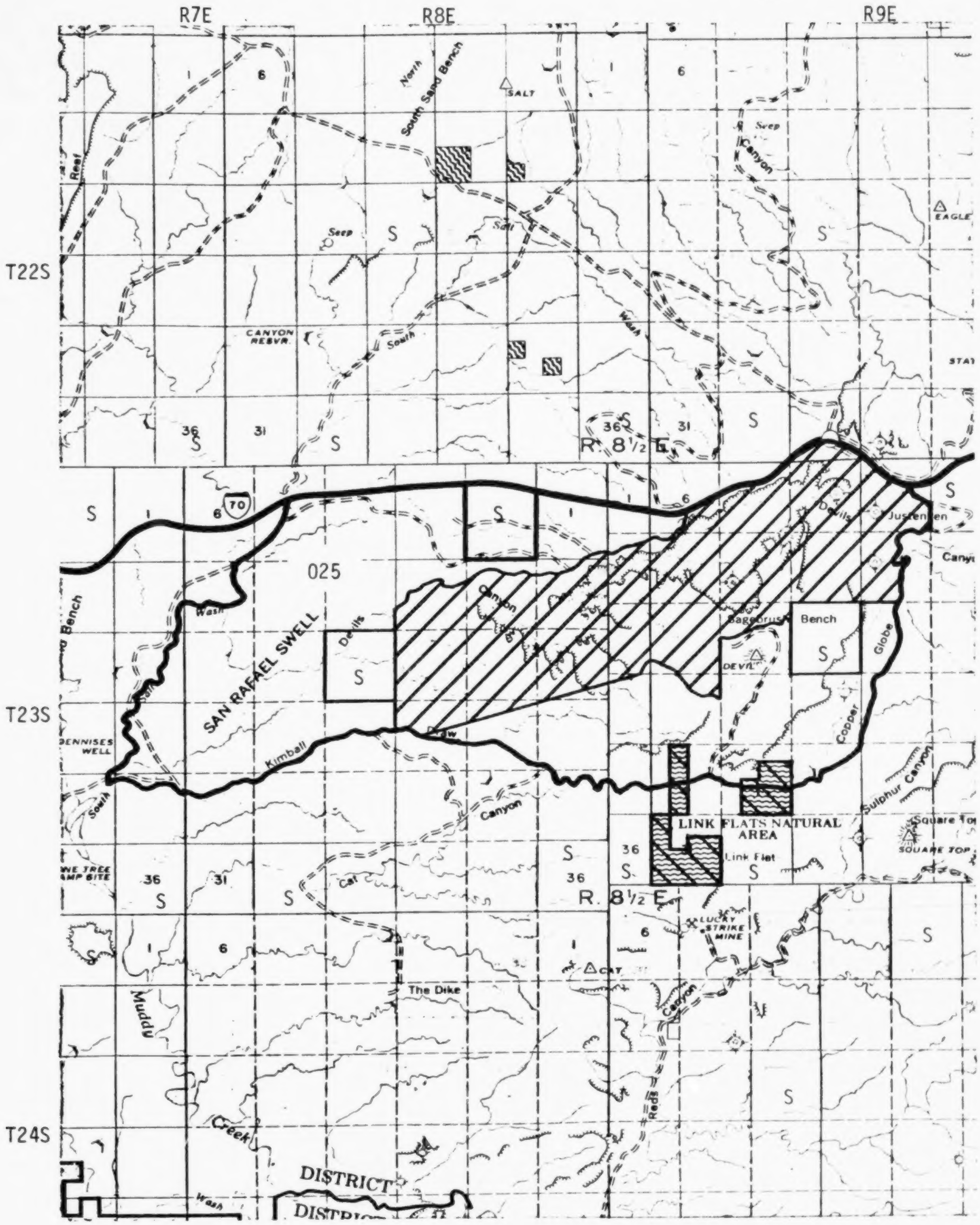
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains archaeological, historic, scenic, and geologic values. A small wild horse herd of approximately 25 horses frequents the unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A total of 30 comments were received; 8 general and 22 specific. Seven of the general comments were in favor of a WSA designation and one comment gave no recommendation. Eight of the 22 specific comments were in favor of a WSA designation, with four against and 10 giving no recommendation. Four government groups, four other groups, two industry and business groups, and 20 individuals were represented in the total count of 30 responses.

The majority of the public response was supportive of a WSA designation. In relation to size, one respondent felt the unit should be larger to include natural areas. Eleven comments addressed roads in the unit; one identifying the imprints with maps and photographs and the others stating the roads "encircled" the area. The majority of specific comments regarding naturalness agreed with those areas being eliminated from the proposed WSA. A seismograph line and mine were identified. Mining activity and livestock grazing were also identified. Outstanding solitude opportunities were mentioned by a large number of respondents. One comment, however, felt the opportunity may not be outstanding in some portions of the unit. Six comments addressed sights and sounds outside of the unit; two making a comparison with other areas in the state, and the others mentioning the locality of Interstate 70. The proposal for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation was supported by four comments. One comment felt the opportunities would be limited to drainages due to the heat and lack of water in the area. Only brief comments expressed the lack of primitive recreation opportunities. Wild horses, cougar habitat, scenic, geologic, topographic, historic and archaeological supplemental values were identified in the unit. One comment felt that scenic values were present, but not unique. One respondent expressed that the unit was "fine the way it is" in terms of reclamation. Four specific comments addressed the mineral potential of the unit.

4. DECISION: The Devils Canyon WSA containing 9,610 acres, will be identified in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION: The public comments did not provide information relevant to the wilderness evaluation of this unit that has not previously been considered. Most of the intrusions identified in the comments are either outside the proposed WSA boundaries or in other units altogether. The remainder are substantially unnoticeable. Those comments discussing sights and sounds outside the unit or comparing this unit with others cannot be considered in the intensive inventory (OAD 78-61, Change 3). The original proposal is valid for this unit.



UT-060-025 - DEVILS CANYON
DEVILS CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
- Link Flats ISA
S - State Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-026 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: NORTH BIG RIDGE UNIT ACREAGE: 20,490

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies within the San Rafael Swell region in the southwest corner of Emery County, 12 miles north of the Wayne-Emery County line and about 6 miles south of I-70. The unit is bounded on the east and west by roads up McKay Flat and Reds Canyon. The northern boundary is a road south of Family Butte and the southern boundary a road north of Penitentiary Canyon leading to Tomsich Butte. The unit, roughly rectangular, is about 8 miles long and 6 miles wide running roughly parallel to Reds Canyon.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit, 20,490 acres of BLM administered land, meets size requirements. Within it lie 640 acres of State land.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit contains Reds Canyon and side drainages which comprise about 7,000 acres. The rest of the unit (13,490 acres) is relatively flat. Six miles of traveled ways, two drill sites, three stock reservoirs, one corral and 1 mile of fence impact the unit; most are found along the eastern border. The imprints are visible but not entirely distinct. The unit retains most of its natural characteristics and appears to be untrammeled by man.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Landforms consist of canyons and drainages in the eastern portion of the unit, while flat plateaus and mesas comprise the other two-thirds of the unit's acreage. Plateau vegetation is low and sparse, consisting of sage and annual grasses. Pinyon-juniper woodlands are scattered throughout most of the unit, yet the stands of trees are of sparse to moderate density and height. None of the factors above afford outstanding screening. Opportunities for solitude are not found to be outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. No focal features exist to attract hikers; the terrain is neither especially scenic nor challenging. Some hunting probably occurs within the unit but vegetation and topography would limit the wildlife populations. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not found to be outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: A herd of 10 to 14 wild horses is found within the unit.

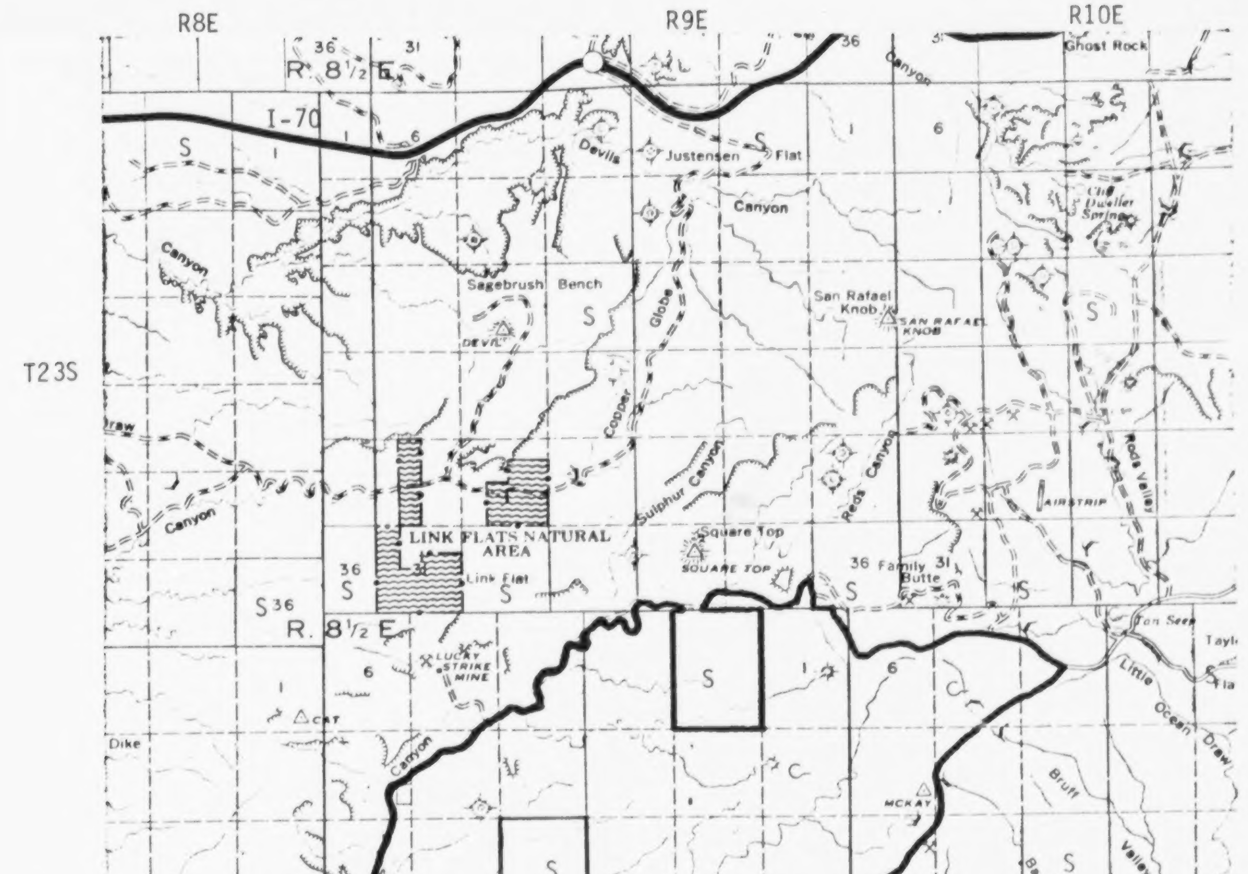
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: The total number of comments for the unit was six; one general and five specific. The only general comment was against a WSA designation. Of the specific comments, three were in favor of a WSA designation, one against and one gave no recommendation (but appeared to be opposed). Three group responses, one industry and business response, and two individual responses were represented in the total count of six.

The issue of solitude tended to be a major concern for those comments in favor of a WSA designation. One specific comment referred to the drainages of Red Canyon and the eastern portion of the unit as containing outstanding opportunities for solitude. The respondent's explanation seemed to rely on a personal account and "outstanding vistas" from the unit. The second specific comment addressed solitude by virtue of the size and/or topography of the unit. Naturalness and supplemental values were also addressed in one of the specific comments. Under naturalness, a respondent stated that the eastern and western portions of the unit were natural; giving a legal description of the area. Wild horses were mentioned under supplemental values. Potential management criteria was addressed in one specific comment.

Of the two specific comments against a WSA designation, only one was relevant to wilderness criteria. Photographs were included with the comment and aided in identifying roads that were thought to be in the unit. A statement that expressed the "lack of wilderness qualities" within the unit was unsupported. Human imprints, such as mineral development and livestock grazing was the only specific declaration upon the unit's wilderness characteristics. Generally, the comment suggested the absence of size, naturalness, solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation and supplemental values which make up the qualities for wilderness.

4. DECISION: The unit will be dropped from WSA consideration, in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Comments identifying solitude were either based on personal observation or did not state if the solitude present was outstanding. Vistas of outside areas from the unit are not one of the primary wilderness criteria as per OAD 78-61, Change 3. Natural areas were identified which supported previous findings. Supplemental values, such as wild horses, do not affect the primary criteria. One separate comment was a summation of the respondent's previous comment, only adding information on possible management actions that cannot be addressed in the inventory. Photographs were used to identify possible roads within the unit. These roads were found to be the unit's boundary. Comments disputing the wilderness characteristics were general and unsupported. The information provided in the public comments that was relevant to the wilderness criteria has already been considered during the inventory by BLM. No change in the proposal appeared to be warranted.



UT-060-026 - NORTH BIG RIDGE

LEGEND
〰 - Unit Boundary
S - State Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-028A WSA ACREAGE: 25,315

UNIT NAME: CRACK CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 32,700

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in south-central Emery County in the San Rafael Swell region just northeast of the Muddy River. The unit includes a portion of the San Rafael Reef and its canyons; Crack Canyon is the major canyon which cuts the portion of the Reef.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit consists of 32,700 acres of BLM administered land; additionally 1,920 acres of State land lie within the boundaries but were not inventoried for wilderness character. The unit lies on a southwest-northeast axis, approximately 16 miles long and 2 to 3 miles wide.

B. NATURALNESS: Human imprints consist of approximately .50 mile of seismograph line, 1.25 mile of fence, 700 acres of contour furrow area, 8 uranium mines, and 10 miles of ways. Most of these occur and are concentrated in three areas along the unit boundaries. About 2,600 acres are no longer substantially natural in character. Due to public comment, field checking was conducted . An additional 4,950 acres were found to be unnatural in character. Approximately 7 miles of roads, about a mile of seismograph line, concentration of ORV use and damage, and substantially noticeable imprints related to mining or oil and gas exploration were identified.

D. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The San Rafael Reef comprises the majority of the unit and consists of near vertical geologic formations. These formations provide excellent topographic screening in the canyons of the Reef and thus outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation do exist while backpacking, hiking, rock scrambling, and sightseeing are outstanding. Opportunities for horse travel and hunting, while present to a limited degree, are less than outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains archaeological, scenic, geologic and historic supplemental values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Thirty-four comments, nine general and 25 specific, were received. Eight general comments supported a WSA status, one gave no recommendation. Ten specific comments were in favor of a WSA designation, five against, and ten gave no recommentation. Represented were four government bodies, five groups and 25 individuals.

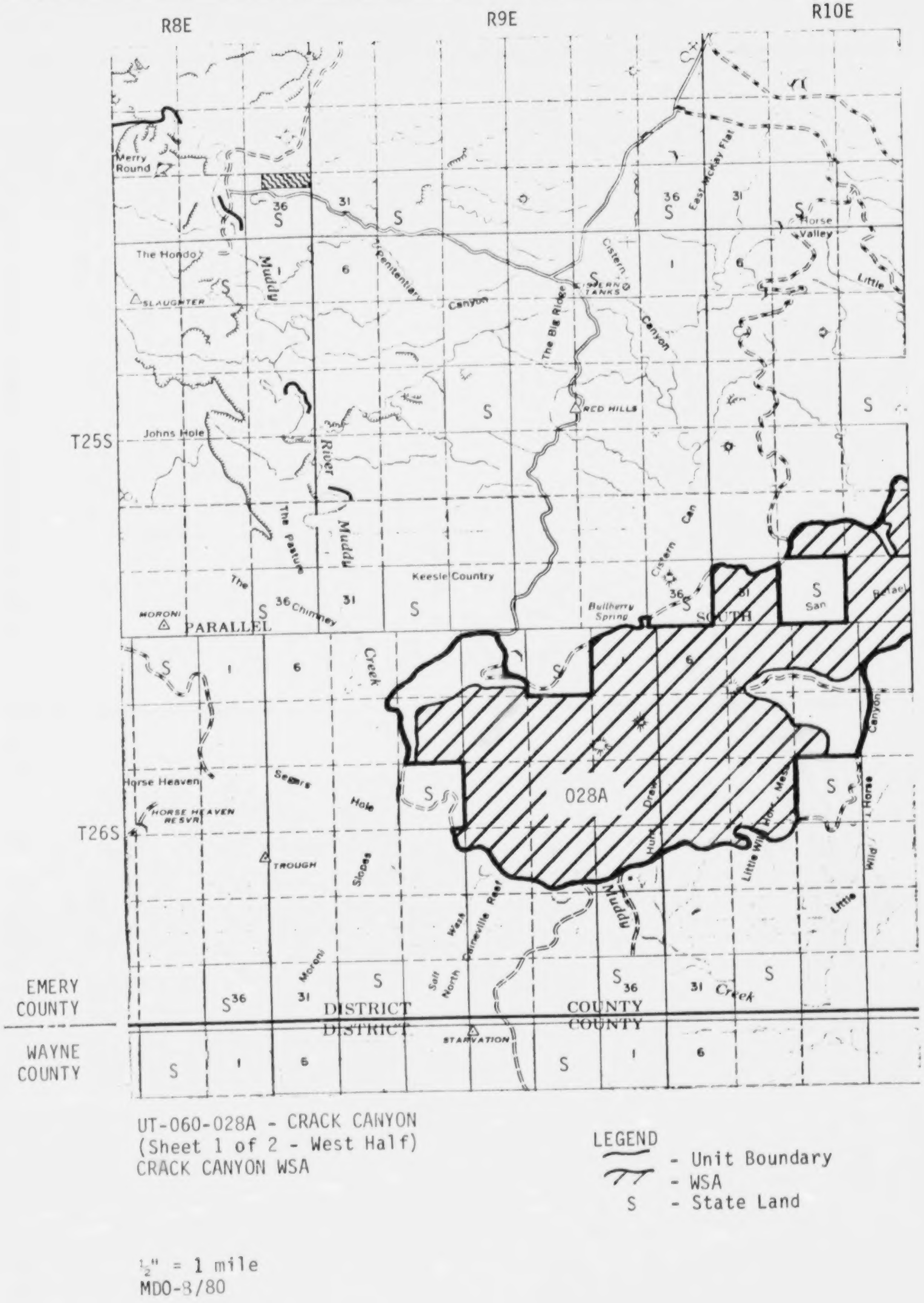
One comment against a WSA status addressed the configuration of the unit. Twelve comments indicated there are roads within the unit, specifically citing roads in Little Wild Horse Creek, Bell Canyon, Chute Canyon, Crack Canyon and concentrations in the eastern portions of the unit; maps and photographs were supplied by two respondents. Mining activity and drilling exploration were associated with these roads. "Gerrymandering" was a term used in two comments that addressed the elimination of unnatural areas. One respondent felt that the opportunity for outstanding opportunities for recreation does not exist in a portion of the unit because of its "flatness". Other concerns noted in the comments included the presence of nine State sections, mining and grazing potential and disturbance outside the unit.

Six of the comments in favor of a WSA status noted that the area was natural in character. Seven comments addressed the outstanding opportunity for solitude; two identifying the screening ability of the topography. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, such as rock scrambling, hiking and photography were addressed by seven comments. One respondent felt the opportunity for these would be limited because of the heat and lack of water in the unit. Specific supplemental values were listed by eight respondents.

4. DECISION: The Crack Canyon WSA, containing 25,315 acres, will be identified with the boundary adjustments described below.

5. RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION: In response to public comments, the areas of Little Wild Horse Creek, Bell Canyon, Chute Canyon, Crack Canyon and an eastern portion of the unit were field checked and numerous additional imprints were confirmed. Four portions in the north include 1,360 acres, and the eastern portion contains 3,425 acres of substantially noticeable imprints. The specific information provided by the rest of the comments was either information previously considered by BLM during the inventory, or was not relevent to the wilderness criteria or guidelines (OAD 78-61, Changes 1 and 2). Included in the latter are: sights and sounds outside the unit, social and economic values, comparisons between this unit and other areas, mineral potential, and other considerations not directly related to the wilderness criteria. Most of the intrusions mentioned, other than those already described as being removed from the proposed WSA by boundary adjustment after field checking, were found to be located outside the boundaries. The narrowness of the unit is off set by topographic relief in providing solitude. The presence of State sections is not relevant because State land is not inventoried for wilderness by BLM. Information provided concerning the presence of wilderness characteristics generally supported BLM findings, but was not new information.

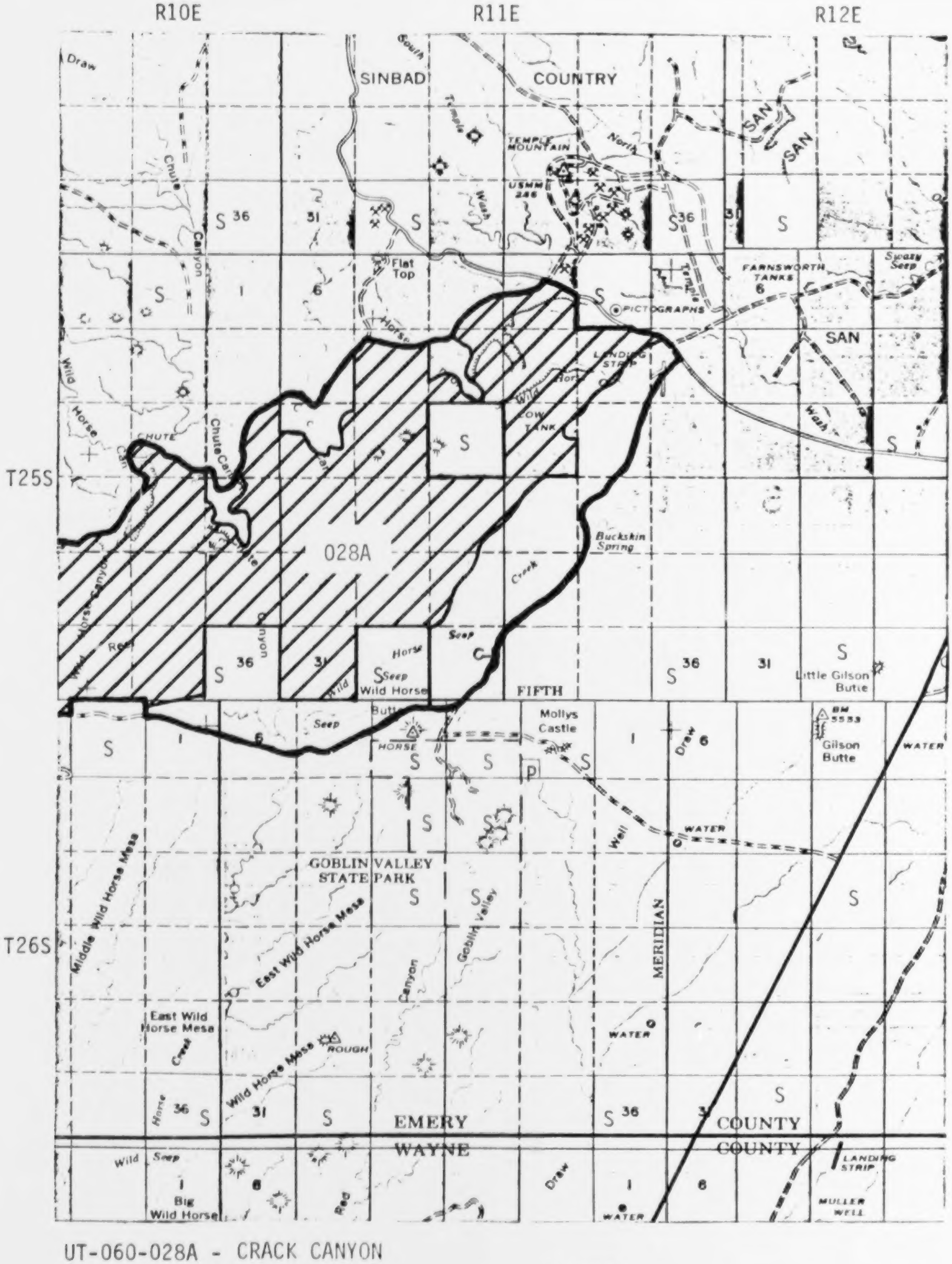
As a result of these considerations, the original proposal, with the previously described boundary adjustments, is considered valid.



UT-060-028A - CRACK CANYON
(Sheet 1 of 2 - West Half)
CRACK CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Land

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80



UT-060-028A - CRACK CANYON
(Sheet 2 of 2 - East Half)
CRACK CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Land
P - Private Land
- State Park Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-028B

WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: CISTERN CANYON

UNIT ACREAGE: 11,480

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies within the San Rafael Swell region in the southwest corner of Emery County, 12 miles north of the Wayne-Emery County line and about 6 miles south of I-70. The unit is bounded on the east and west by roads down to the Hidden Splendor Mine and through Horse Valley. The northern boundary is a road at the southern portion of McKay Flat and the southern boundary is a road which runs parallel to the San Rafael Reef.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit, 11,480 acres of BLM administered land, does meet the minimum size requirement of 5,000 acres. It was originally part of UT-060-028, Chute Canyon intensive inventory, however, interior roads have split the unit into three subparts (A, B, and C). A and C are discussed individually elsewhere. The unit is about 5 miles long and 3 miles wide.

B. NATURALNESS: Loss of naturalness has occurred in the north and south portions of the unit. About 4 miles of traveled ways, 1 drill site, 3 stock reservoirs, and 1 corral are in the unit; most are located in the north portion. These imprints are substantially noticeable and unnatural in character. The remaining portion of the unit (75%) retains most of its natural characteristics and appears to be natural and untrammeled by man.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Landforms consist of low canyon and drainage relief which crease the center portion of the unit. Undulating table lands comprise most of the northern section. Plateau vegetation is low and sparse, consisting of sage and annual grasses. Pinyon-juniper woodland stands are sparse to moderate, averaging in heights from 2 to 4 feet. The preceding factors do not tend to afford screening. Opportunities for solitude are not found to be outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The landforms and vegetation of the unit do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Focal features which attract hikers do not exist and the terrain is not especially challenging. Some ski touring probably occurs within the northern portion of unit.

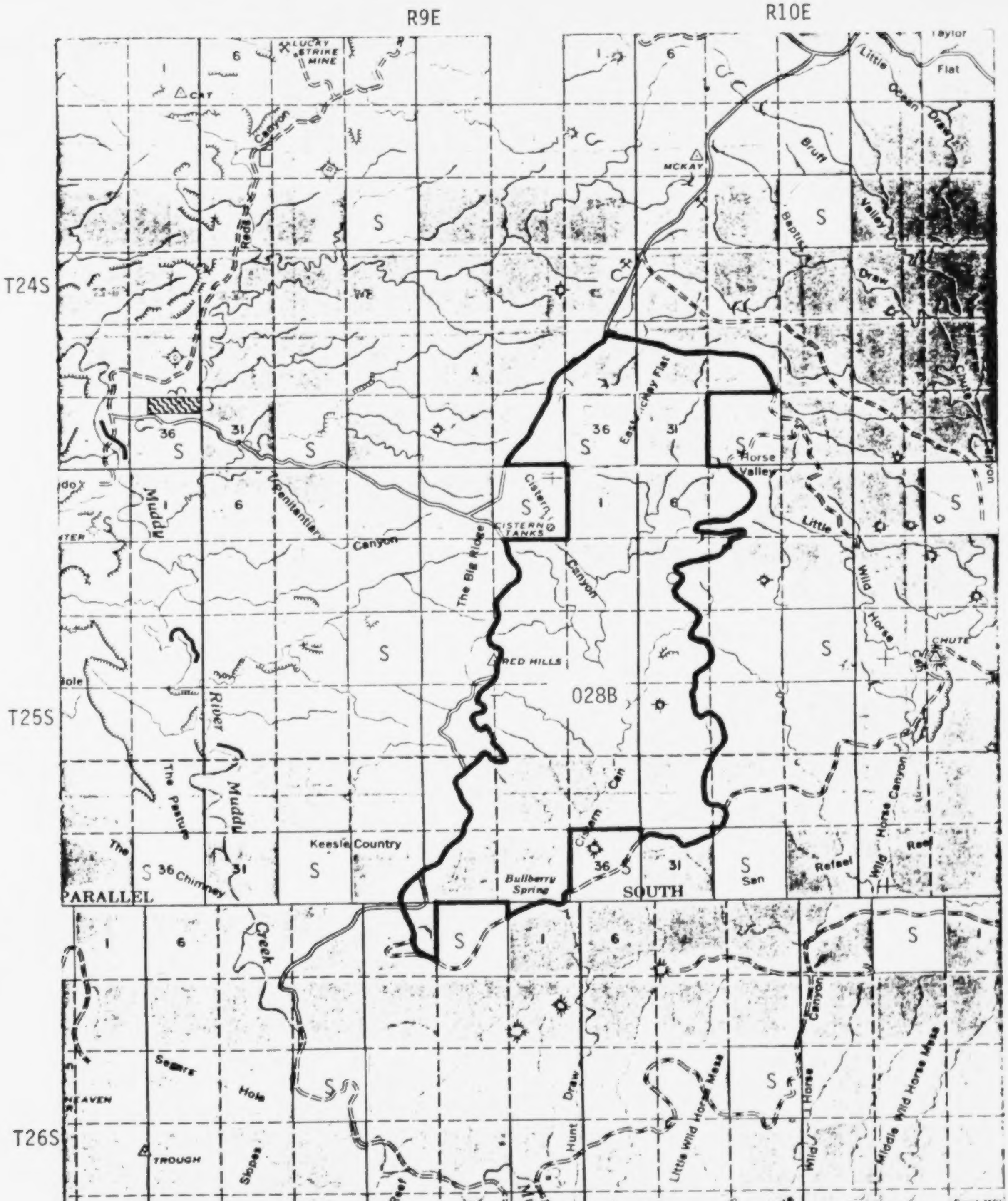
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: A wild horse herd of 10 to 14 are found in the unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: The number of comments for the unit totaled three; one general and two specific. The general comment was against a WSA designation, and the two specific comments were split with one for and one against the WSA designation. One group response, one industry and business response, and one individual response was represented in the total count of three.

One respondent supplied a map and photographs which identified possible roads in the unit. The same comment gave a generalized statement on the "lack of wilderness qualities" within the unit. This statement was clarified with only the identification of man's imprint, such as mineral development and livestock grazing, but no specific locations were given. Size, naturalness, solitude, primitive type of recreation and supplemental values were thought not to meet the wilderness criteria. A comment was given on solitude that emphasized that the mere "size and/or topography" of the unit lends to the opportunity. The general comment against a WSA designation agreed with and supported the proposal.

4. DECISION: The unit will be dropped from WSA consideration, in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The original proposal agrees that the unit's size and topography is conducive to solitude; however, the opportunity is not outstanding due to the characteristics of vegetative and topographic screening; no specific areas or quality were mentioned in the comments. No information was provided that would require reconsideration of the original proposal.



UT-060-028B - CISTERN CANYON

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
S - State Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-028C WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: CHUTE CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 31,340

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies within the San Rafael Swell region in the southwest corner of Emery County, 12 miles north of the Wayne-Emery County line and about 6 miles south of I-70. The unit is bounded on the east and west by roads through Taylor Flat and Horse Valley/McKay Flat. The southern boundary runs parallel to the San Rafael Reef, past Horse and Crack Canyons. The unit is about 9 miles long and 7 miles wide.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit, 31,340 acres of BLM administered land, does meet the minimum size requirement of 5,000 acres. There is 2,560 acres of State land within the unit and no private land. The unit was originally part of UT-060-028, Chute Canyon, however, interior roads have split the unit into three subparts (A, B, and C). A and B are discussed individually elsewhere.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit contains Chute Canyon, Little Wild Horse Canyon, Bell Canyon, and associated drainages which comprise about 50 percent of the landforms. The rest of the unit is relatively flat. In the unit exist 1 airstrip, 7 stock reservoirs, 2 miles of fence, 1 mile of seismograph line, a mine, almost 13 miles of ways, and 2 drill sites. Due to the concentration and substantial noticeability of these imprints. loss of naturalness has occurred in a portion of the unit. The majority of the unit (approximately 65 percent) appears natural and untrammeled by man.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: In the southwest portion of the unit human imprints and land ownership patterns tend to isolate the area. In the southeastern portion of the unit boundaries converge in such a manner as to develop a narrow finger of roadless land that extends outside the bulk of the unit. Topography consists of flat undulating table land. Vegetation is low and sparse brush and grasses, with scattered pinyon-juniper stands. Size, configuration, and topographic and vegetative screening do not afford an outstanding opportunity for solitude in these portions of the unit.

The mid-portion of the unit contains Bruff Valley, Baptist Draw, and Chute Canyon. Chute Canyon is the major drainage and creases the center of the unit. Approximately 3 miles of Chute Canyon is fragmented into three short, deep and narrow sections, and is separated by shallow and open portions. Opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding due to the shallow and open character of the portions fragmenting these sections as well as the short length of the sections. The remaining land surrounding Chute Canyon has three State sections inheld and consists of topography of flat and undulated table land. Vegetation is low and sparse brush and grasses, with scattered pinyon-juniper stands. The short, fragmented size and configuration of Chute Canyon, and topographic and vegetative screening surrounding the canyon afford a less than outstanding opportunity for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The land forms and vegetation of the unit do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Only one small portion (approximately 3 miles) of Chute Canyon possess rugged and narrow relief that would attract hikers. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the canyon are limited due to fragmentation caused by shallow and open portions, making the rugged and narrow sections short in length. Hunting may occur within the unit, however, small game and deer are in sparse population and may cause the hunting experience to be less than outstanding.

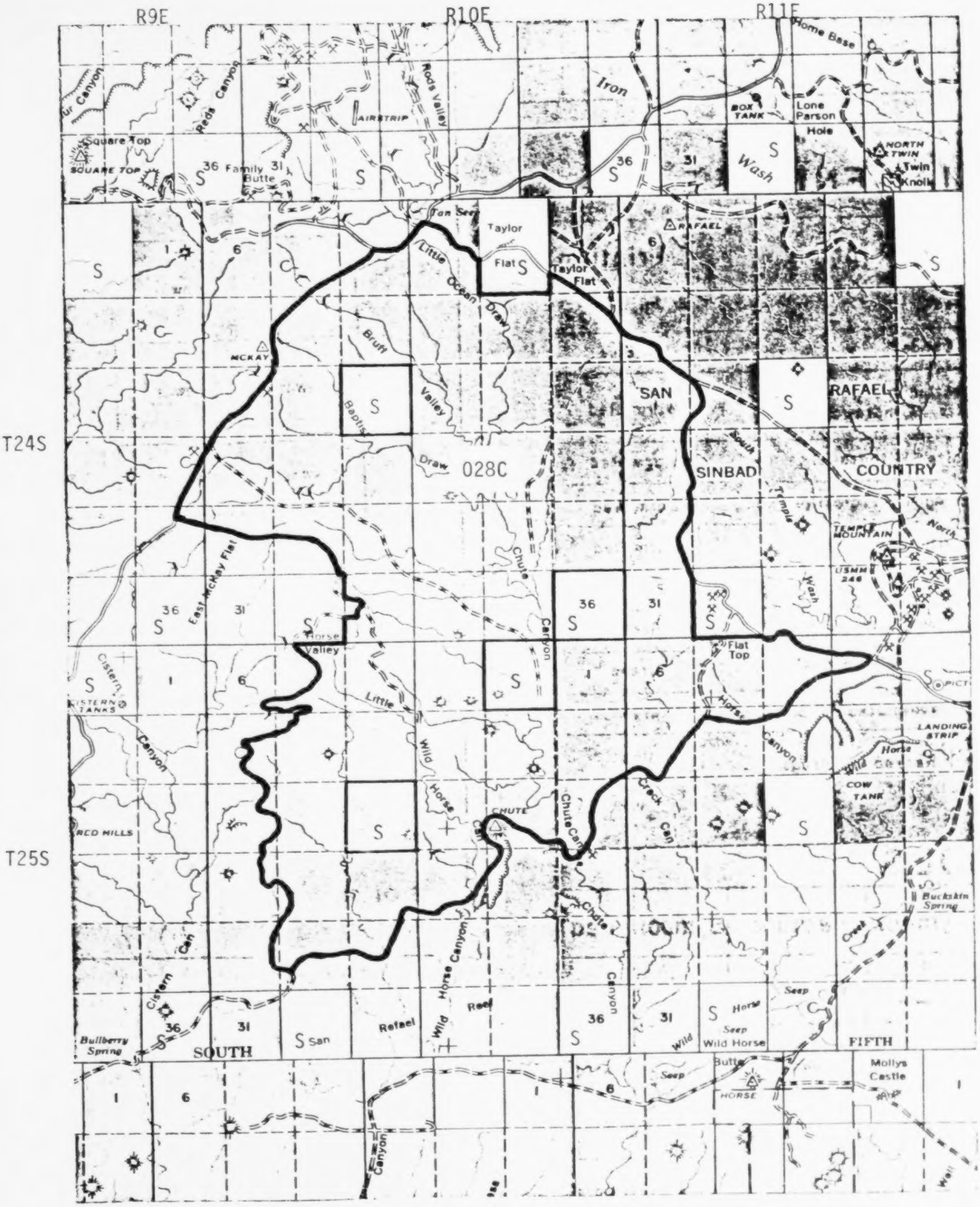
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: A wild horse herd of 10 to 14 are found in the unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: The number of comments for the unit totaled three; one general and two specific. The general comment was against a WSA designation, and the two specific comments were split with one for and one against the WSA designation. One group response, one industry and business response, and one individual response was represented in the total count of three.

One respondent supplied a map and photographs which identified possible roads in the unit. The same comment gave a generalized statement on the "lack of wilderness qualities" within the unit. This statement was clarified with only the identification of man's imprint, such as mineral development and livestock grazing, but no specific locations were given. Size, naturalness, solitude, primitive type of recreation and supplemental values were thought not to meet the wilderness criteria. A comment was given on solitude that emphasized that the mere "size and/or topography" of the unit lends to the opportunity. The general comment against a WSA designation agreed with and supported the proposal.

4. DECISION: The unit will be dropped from WSA consideration, in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The three comments did not provide information that would alter the proposed decision. Maps and photographs identifying possible roads in the unit were found to pertain to the boundary roads between 028C and 028A. General statements on the "lack" of wilderness qualities were unsupported. The original proposal agrees that the unit's size and topography is conducive to solitude, however, the opportunity is not outstanding due to the characteristics of vegetative and interrupted topographic screening.



UT-060-028C - CHUTE CANYON

LEGEND
(line) - Unit Boundary
S - State Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-029A WSA ACREAGE: 55,540

UNIT NAME: SAN RAFAEL REEF UNIT ACREAGE: 73,270

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The San Rafael Reef intensive inventory unit, in southern Emery County, lies to the south of Interstate 70 about 15 miles west of Green River. The unit includes a portion of the San Rafael Reef, Straight Wash, Ernie Canyon, several other drainages in the Reef, and several high plateaus south of I-70 and north of Temple Mountain.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 73,270 acres of BLM administered land; an additional 5,280 acres of state land lies within the unit boundaries. It is about 22 miles long and 6 to 8 miles wide. It is bordered roughly by Interstate 70, the San Rafael Reef, and an irregular line running north from Temple Mountain to Interstate 70.

B. NATURALNESS: The area's topography is dominated by the San Rafael Reef and the canyons which dissect it. The vegetation is a mix of annual and perennial grasses, desert shrubs, and pinyon-juniper woodlands. Some 4,750 acres around Sagebrush Bench have been affected by human activities and are no longer natural in character. Significant impacts have occurred in the areas along Interstate 70 and north of Temple Mountain. Human imprints into the remainder of the area are minor in extent and severity.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The size and shape of the unit is generally conducive to outstanding opportunities for solitude. The steep meandering canyons and the high plateaus within the unit also contribute to the opportunities for solitude by providing screening. This screening is enhanced by the vegetation in the pinyon-juniper woodlands and in the canyon bottoms. Three areas within the unit do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and have been isolated by intrusion patterns eliminating 12,980 acres.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Outstanding opportunities for canyon hiking, rock scrambling and camping are present within the unit.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The geologic uniqueness of the San Rafael Reef is the most evident supplemental value. The area also provides a habitat for a small wild burro herd.

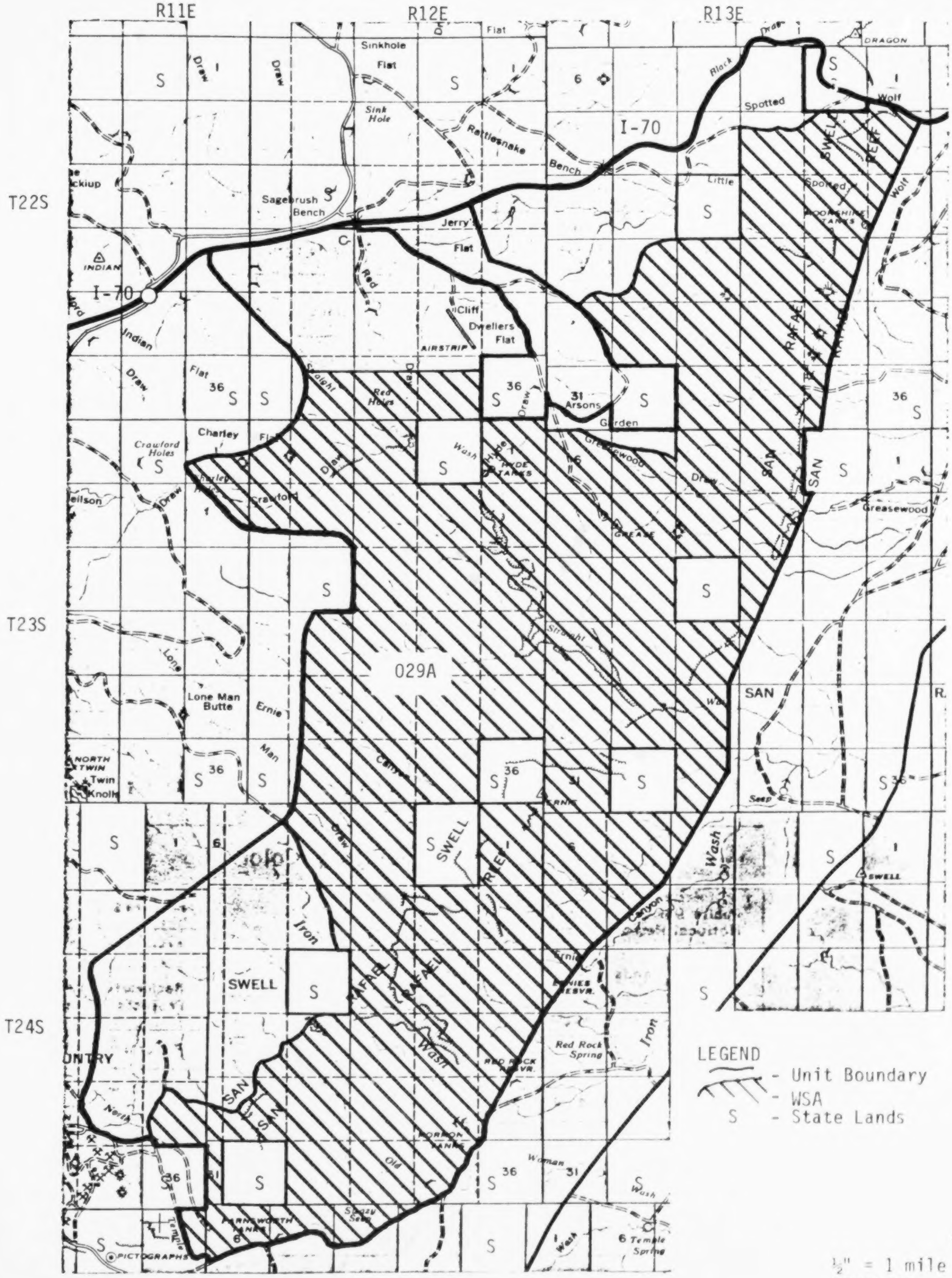
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Thirty-five comments were received; 11 general and 24 specific. Of the 11 general, 10 were for a WSA identification and one gave no recommendation. Fifteen specific comments were in favor of a WSA identification, one against and eight gave no recommendation. Three government group responses, five other group responses, and 27 individual responses were represented in the total count of 35.

Only one comment addressed the presence of roads within the unit, however, no specific locations were given. Five comments addressed the fact that because of the area's geological characteristics, no roads could be built. Six respondents mentioned that Interstate 70 and the Temple Mountain road could be seen from the unit. Other imprints, such as old camp sites and litter were addressed by one comment, with no locations given. Twenty-five of the comments supported the original proposal on solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, repeating the information given. One comment felt these opportunities were not outstanding because they could be found in parks throughout the state. Supplemental values, such as wild horses and burros, cougar habitat, and unique geological features were identified and listed by 10 respondents. Two comments felt that those imprints in the proposed WSA were "very unnoticeable" and would reclaim naturally. One respondent felt the area should be a national park. Another comment addressed protection of the area against "questionable mining". Discrimination of the handicapped was an issue addressed by one respondent in relation to a WSA identification. Confusion on why the unit had been split into 029A and B was expressed in one comment. Potential management criteria was also addressed in a comment that summarized the respondent's previous comment. Three comments mentioned that the area was "defacto wilderness".

4. DECISION: The San Rafael Reef WSA, containing 55,540 acres, will be identified in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION: There was strong support for a WSA identification.One respondent mentioned a road in the unit, but did not support the statement. The absence of roads in the unit was supported by five comments. Sights and sounds outside the unit are not considered (OAD 78-61, Change 3). Information identifying imprints was unsupported. There was strong support on the unit's characteristics of solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, with no new information given. Comparison of other BLM units is not allowed (OAD 78-61, Change 3); other agency land designations are not an inventory criteria. Supplemental values are not primary criteria for determining WSA suitability and do not affect the proposal. Natural reclamation potential is contingent upon favorable conditions. Possible management criteria is not considered during the intensive inventory. The unit was split into 029A and B during the initial inventory; 029B being considered unsuitable to be studied further.

The specific information provided in the public comments has already been considered by BLM during the inventory. The original proposal is considered to be still valid and appropriate.



UT-060-029A - SAN RAFAEL REEF
SAN RAFAEL REEF WSA

UNIT NO.: UT-060-045/UT-050-237A WSA ACREAGE: 20,550

UNIT NAME: HORSESHOE CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 71,660

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The inventory unit straddles the Wayne-Emery County line, bounded on the east by the Green River and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA). The southern boundary is the Tidwell Ranch road, and the western boundary the Antelope Valley road. The unit is about 12 miles south of the town of Green River and about 30 miles northeast of Hanksville. It is adjacent to the Horseshoe Canyon unit of Canyonlands National Park (NP). The Horseshoe Canyon Wilderness proposal of Canyonlands NP and the Orange Cliffs Wilderness Proposal of GCNRA are both contiguous with the unit.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit contains 71,660 acres, 58,700 in Emery County and 12,960 in Wayne County. The acreage in Wayne County was originally part of unit UT-050-237. This unit, in the Richfield District, was found to be split by a road past Tidwell Ranch. The area north of this road forms one unit; the two numbers are for administrative convenience only.

B. NATURALNESS: Approximately 67% of the unit has been impacted by mineral exploration and ranching activities, which have created imprints on flat areas of the unit. The four main canyon systems remain free of imprints of man. The natural area is divided into two parcels: the smaller, around Three Canyon, does not meet size requirements; the larger contains Horseshoe Canyon, Keg Spring Canyon, and part of Labyrinth Canyon.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The canyons within the unit provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because of vertical separation from the rest of the unit and because of the narrow twisting nature of the canyons.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Portions of the unit provide outstanding opportunities for hiking and related activities. This is especially apparent in the corridor formed by Horseshoe Canyon between Canyonlands NP and the Green River. Supplemental scenic, geologic, ecologic, archaeologic and historic values enhance recreational opportunities.

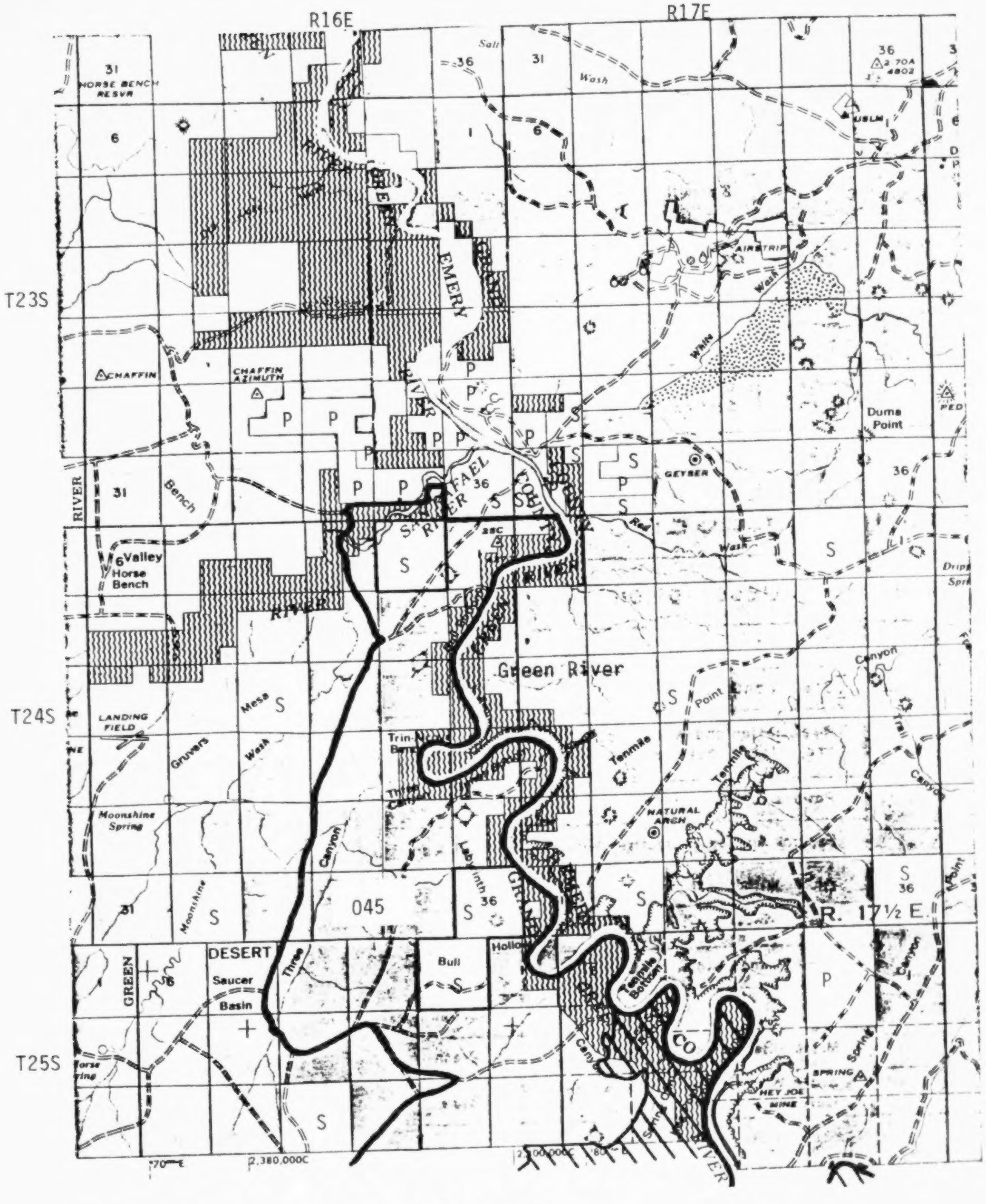
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains geologic, scenic, archaeologic, historic and ecologic supplemental values. Bowknot Bend provides a unique geologic and ecologic area. The general area is known for archaeologic sites. The abandoned uranium mine works on the face of Bowknot Bend have historic interest. The unit is highly scenic.

3. SUMMARY OF COMENTS: A total of 18 comments were received; 16 were specific and two were general. Of the 16 specific comments, six favored a WSA identification, seven gave no recommendation, and three were against the proposal. Two general comments were in favor of a WSA identification Two government group responses, three other group responses, and 13 individual responses were represented in the total count of 18.

Those comments in favor of a WSA identification agreed with the proposal, addressing the factors of naturalness, solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation and supplemental values. Two specific comments addressed the topographic screening ability and steep canyon walls of the unit, thus emphasizing the outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Three brief specific comments were given on the unit's natural character, agreeing with the proposal. Two other comments emphasized supplemental values, expressing that a WSA identification would help extend and enhance protection of the archaeological values within the adjacent National Park. Seven specific comments gave no recommendation relevent to WSA identification. Four comments addressing naturalness mentioned significant imprints by mineral and ranching activities, but gave no specific locations. Two comments said the area was impacted by roads, but gave no locations. Seven comments addressed accessibility to the area, emphasizing the use of four-wheel drive. Of the three comments against a WSA identification, two referred to "roads throughout the area" and "roads renamed ways," however, no specific locations were given. Mining activity was another factor mentioned, but only a general ("in the east") location was given by one respondent. One comment stated that the unit contained no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation that couldn't be found in numerous other locations, and concluded that the unit is not outstanding.

4. DECISION: The original proposal should be implemented. Horseshoe Canyon of 20,550 acres will be identified as a WSA. Of this acreage, 18,610 is in the Moab District and 1,940 is in the Richfield District.

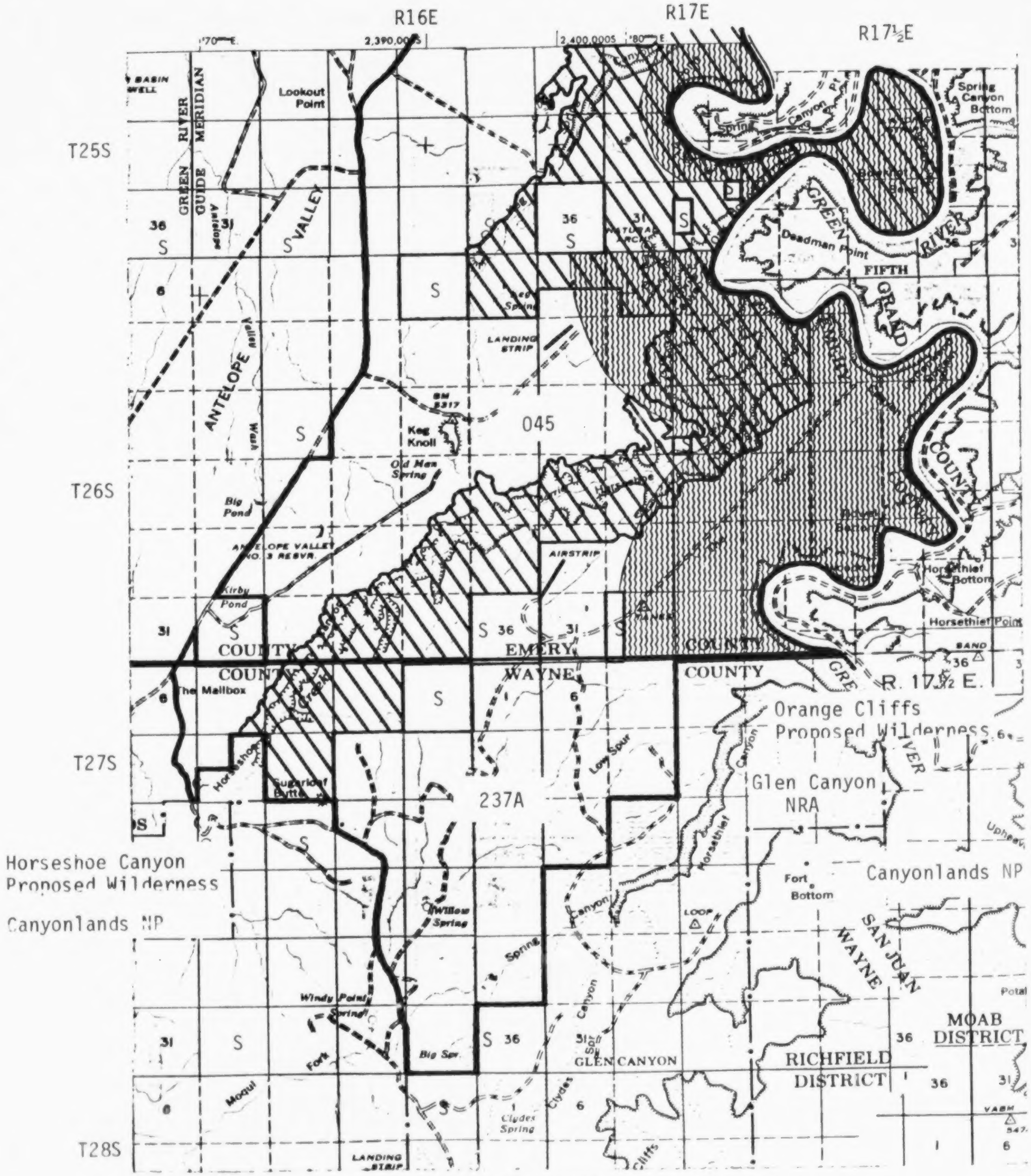
5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The majority of comments received generally supported the WSA proposal. The specific comments addressed solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, but the information presented had been previously considered. The comments listing impacts (such as roads, mines and campgrounds) did not give any specific locations; one giving a general location of two mines that had been previously considered. Accessibility to the area is not a wilderness criteria in the intensive inventory. Supplemental values (such as archaeological sites) are not a primary criteria for determining WSA suitability and do not affect the proposal. Comparison of characteristics, such as opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, cannot be made between areas (OAD No. 78-61, Change 3). No new information was provided that would change the original proposal.



UT-060-045/UT-050-237A - HORSESHOE CANYON
Sheet 1 of 2 - North Half
HORSESHOE CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands
- National Park Service Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8,'80



UT-060-045/UT-050-237A - HORSESHOE CANYON
Sheet 2 of 2 - South Half
HORSESHOE CANYON WSA

LEGEND

- Unit Boundary
- WSA
- S - State Lands
- P - Private Lands
- National Park Service Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-053 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: CEDAR MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE: 104,200

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit falls in the northern end of the San Rafael Swell just north of Cedar Mountain in Emery County. It lies about two miles west of Woodside on U.S. Highway 6 and 50. The Price River runs across the unit from northwest to east; north and south of the river are broad flats cut by many washes. Flattop Mountain is in the southern part of the unit and exhibits a character similar to Cedar Mountain. The north rim of Cedar Mountain is the southern boundary of the unit. Other boundaries are roads, nonfederal land and topographic features forming an irregular area.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The intensive inventory unit contains approximately 104,200 acres of BLM-administered land, 9,920 acres of state land and 520 acres of privately-owned land. It is about 18 miles long, northwest to southeast, and about 16 miles wide.

B. NATURALNESS: A total of 42 miles of roads, 68 miles of traveled ways, 19 miles of seismograph lines (possibly used as ways) and other imprints associated with minerals exploration and ranching affect the natural quality of about 51,300 acres or 49 percent of the unit. Topography within the unit is varied; vegetation patterns vary with topography including pinyon-juniper woodland, riparian vegetation and desert species.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The natural area contains 12 small fingers of land or isolated areas: removal eliminated 7,600 acres or 14 percent of the natural area from further consideration. Resulting patterns split the unit into two parcels. The larger, to the northwest, contains 14,200 acres. Features include the Price River, Flattop Mountains and Sulphur Canyon; opportunities for solitude that might otherwise be present are constrained by land ownership configuration. The other parcel to the southeast contains 21,100 acres; it also contains portions of the Price River. Natural screening in this parcel is limited and does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: A variety of vegetation and land forms does provide some opportunity for camping, horseback riding, hiking, backpacking and hunting, but irregular patterns of inholdings render these opportunities less than outstanding. The Price River is located within the unit; however, the river is segmented by land configuration patterns which limit the outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains geologic, scenic and ecologic supplemental values related to the Price River cutting across the San Rafael Swell. It also contains historic cabins and corrals and part of the Grassy Trail.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Three comments were received, two from individuals and one from an organized group. None of these comments contained specific information in disagreement with the Moab District description of the unit. On respondent did feel opportunities for solitude were present, but did not address whether they were outstanding. This respondent favored proposing a WSA. The other two supported the BLM recommendation.

4. DECISION: The unit should be dropped from WSA consideration in accordance with the original proposal.

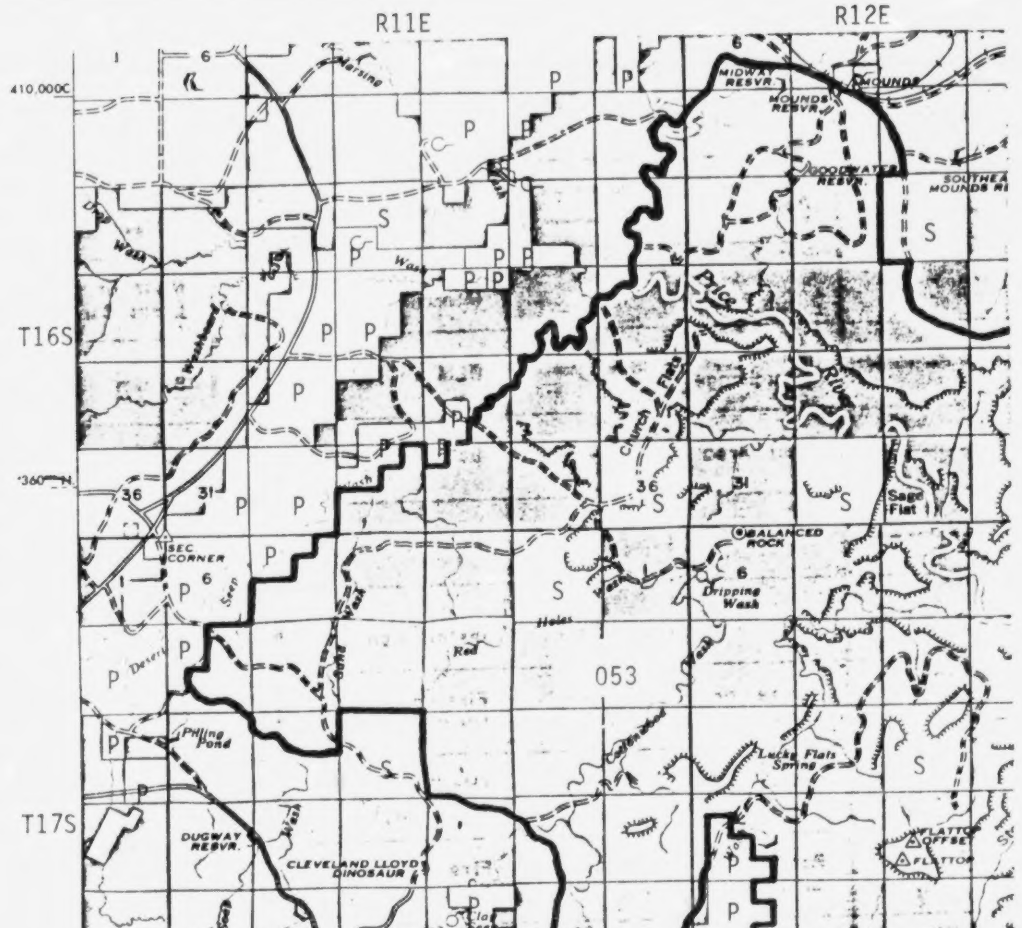
5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The unit meets size requirements. Human imprints associated with minerals exploration and development and grazing operations have created extensive impacts: some 51,300 acres or 49 percent of the unit have lost naturalness.

The remaining natural area includes 12 fingers of land or pinched-off areas where opportunities for solitude would be minimal due to boundary configurations. Elimination removes 7,600 acres from further consideration, 7 percent of the unit or 14 percent of the natural area. The resulting pattern separates the remaining area into two parcels. The larger contains 24,200 acres. Portions of the Price River, Flattop Mountain, Sulphur Canyon, Stove Gulch and other minor features fall within the parcel; however, the pattern of nonfederal land ownership, permanent imprints and boundary configurations have limited opportunities for solitude. The smaller parcel contains 21,100 acres. It also contains portions of the Price River. Natural screening potential in this parcel is limited and adversely affects opportunities for solitude.

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are also limited by land ownership patterns and boundary considerations. The natural area could be used for hunting deer, antelope, chukar and duck, although populations are not unique to the unit. Hiking and backpacking would be constrained by land ownership configurations. Terrain limits horse-packing and camping. The Price River is chopped into many short segments by land configuration patterns. Use would also be limited to months of high water.

The unit does contain geologic, scenic and ecologic supplemental values; it is part of the San Rafael Swell. The Price River provides a raparian habitat infrequently encountered in the desert. Historic values are present in old cabins and corrals along the Price River and in a portion of the Grassy Trail in the unit.

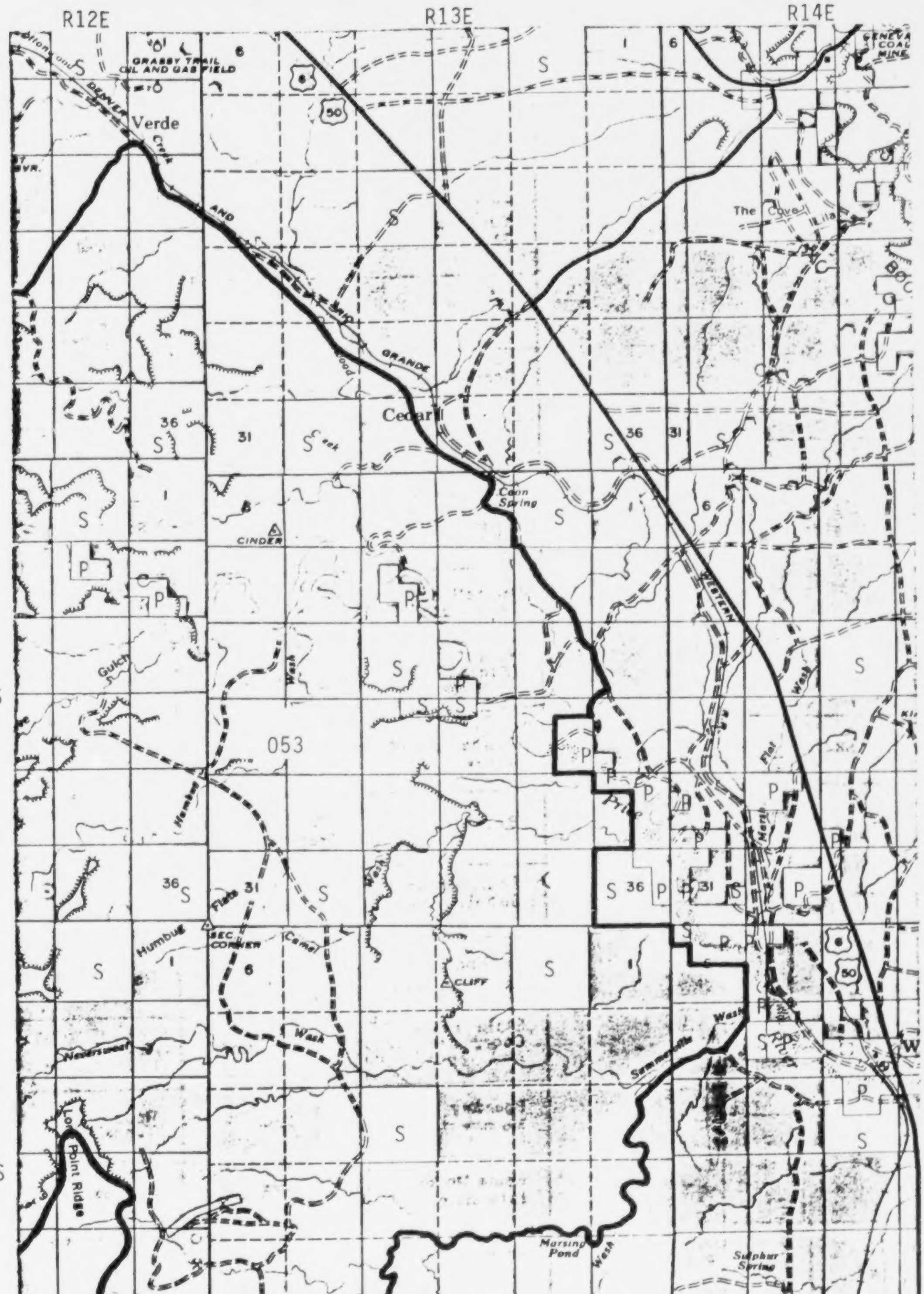
Two public comments supported the BLM recommendation not to propose a WSA. The third comment favored proposing a WSA believing opportunities for solitude were present. Moab District agrees such opportunities are present, but they are not outstanding given the topographic and vegetative character of those portions of the unit which remain substantially natural and unconstrained in configuration. Thus, the unit does not meet WSA criteria.



UT-060-053 - CEDAR MOUNTAIN
Sheet 1 of 2 - West Half

LEGEND
~ - Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80



UT-060-053 - CEDAR MOUNTAIN
Sheet 2 of 2 - East Half

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-054 WSA ACREAGE: 60,360

UNIT NAME: MEXICAN MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE: 104,000

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located north of Interstate 70 about 16 miles west of Green River in Emery County. It includes canyons of the San Rafael River, portions of the San Rafael Reef and Mexican Mountain.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 104,000 acres of BLM administered land; 6,550 acres of State land and 1,330 acres of private land lie within the unit boundaries. The unit is bordered roughly by Interstate 70, the San Rafael Reef, State land and Buckhorn Draw road.

B. NATURALNESS: The area's topography is dominated by the San Rafael Reef, the San Rafael River with its canyons and Mexican Mountain. Vegetation is a mix of grasses, desert shrubs, pinyon-juniper woodlands, and riparian trees and shrubs. About 14,580 acres have been affected by human activities and are no longer natural in character.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The size and shape of the unit are conducive to outstanding opportunities for solitude. The steep, meandering canyons of the San Rafael River and the San Rafael Reef, Mexican Mountain and other peaks and mesas provide screening. Screening is enhanced by vegetation in pinyon-juniper woodlands and canyon bottoms. Two narrow areas outside the bulk of the unit do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The northern and southern plateaus and flats do not exhibit outstanding opportunities for solitude due to a lack of topographic and vegetative screening.

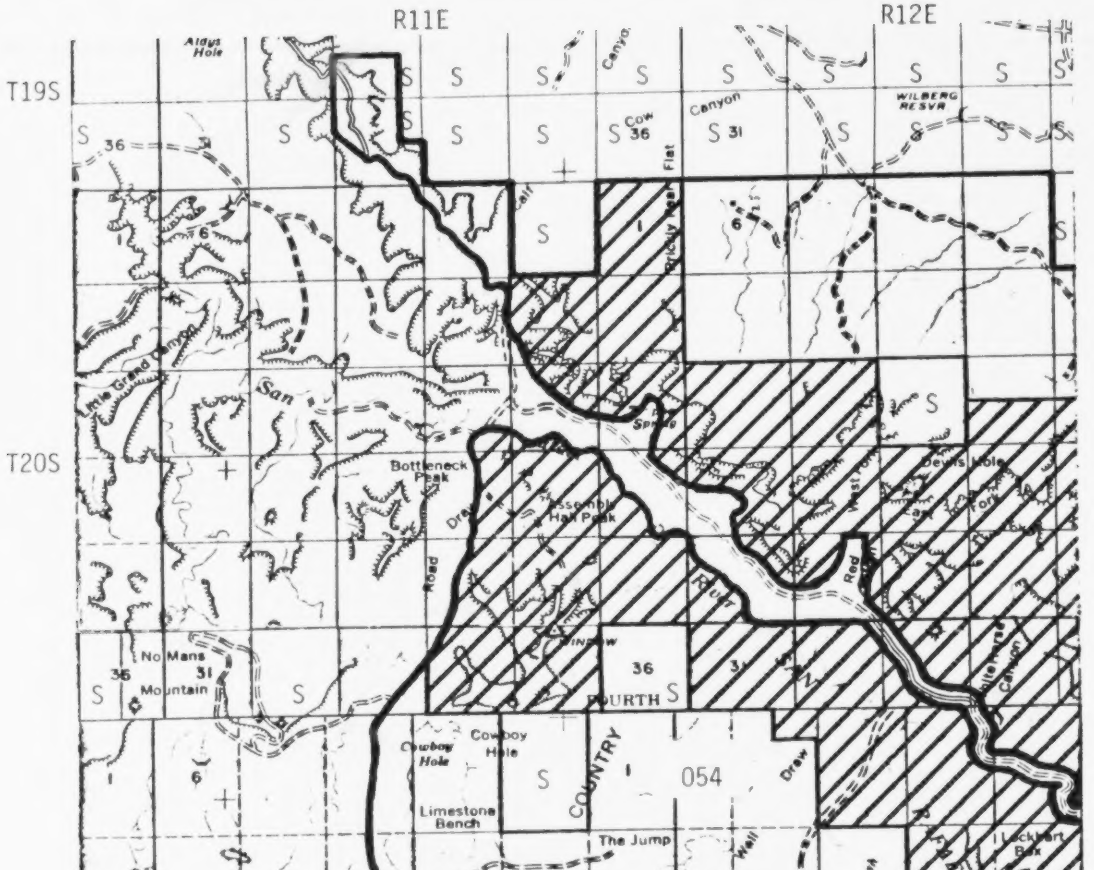
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist in challenging canyon hiking, rock scrambling, camping, and river recreation. Opportunities for horseback riding, while possibly not outstanding, also are present.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Supplemental values include the geologic uniqueness of the San Rafael Reef and the Black Box of the San Rafael River, a route of the Old Spanish Trail, petroglyphs and pictographs.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Thirty-nine comments were received; 30 were specific and 9 were general. These comments included responses from nine organized groups, 5 government agencies and 22 individuals. Twenty-four comments favored WSA designation; 15 did not. Seven respondents supported a 75,000 acre "conservationist" proposal. One supported the Utah Wilderness Association proposal which is similar in acreage to the BLM proposal. Two respondents felt wide and open areas should be included or that proposed boundaries should not correspond to legal boundaries. Many comments express concern over State lands within the unit boundaries. Sixteen respondents addressed roads. Three of these supported "cherry stemming" the road along the San Rafael River. Two referred to roads which entered "from the west"; another to roads in the south. One felt roads had been renamed ways. Eleven comments stated that the unit was substantially natural. Nine felt it was not, referring to livestock developments, mining and mineral exploration impacts, "open pits", off-road vehicle (ORV) tracks, camp sites, the San Rafael Bridge and metal buildings. Fourteen comments agreed that outstanding opportunities for solitude were present within the WSA. Eleven respondents did not agree such opportunities were present due to the visibility of powerplants, mining, towns and highways outside the unit and of imprints within the unit, and due to the cherry stemmed road through the unit. One respondent felt opportunities for solitude were present in the side canyons to Buckhorn Draw. Eleven comments offered examples of outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation while one respondent felt such opportunities were not outstanding because they were available elsewhere. Thirteen comments agreed that supplemental values were present while one felt it looked like the general area. One respondent felt that the airstrip, and another that mining impacts were returning or could return to a natural condition. One comment stated the Black Box should be restricted to scientific research. Several comments also referred to potential conflicts with range, mineral and recreational uses.

4. DECISION: The originally proposed Mexican Mountain WSA will become a WSA of 60,360 acres with adjustment described below.

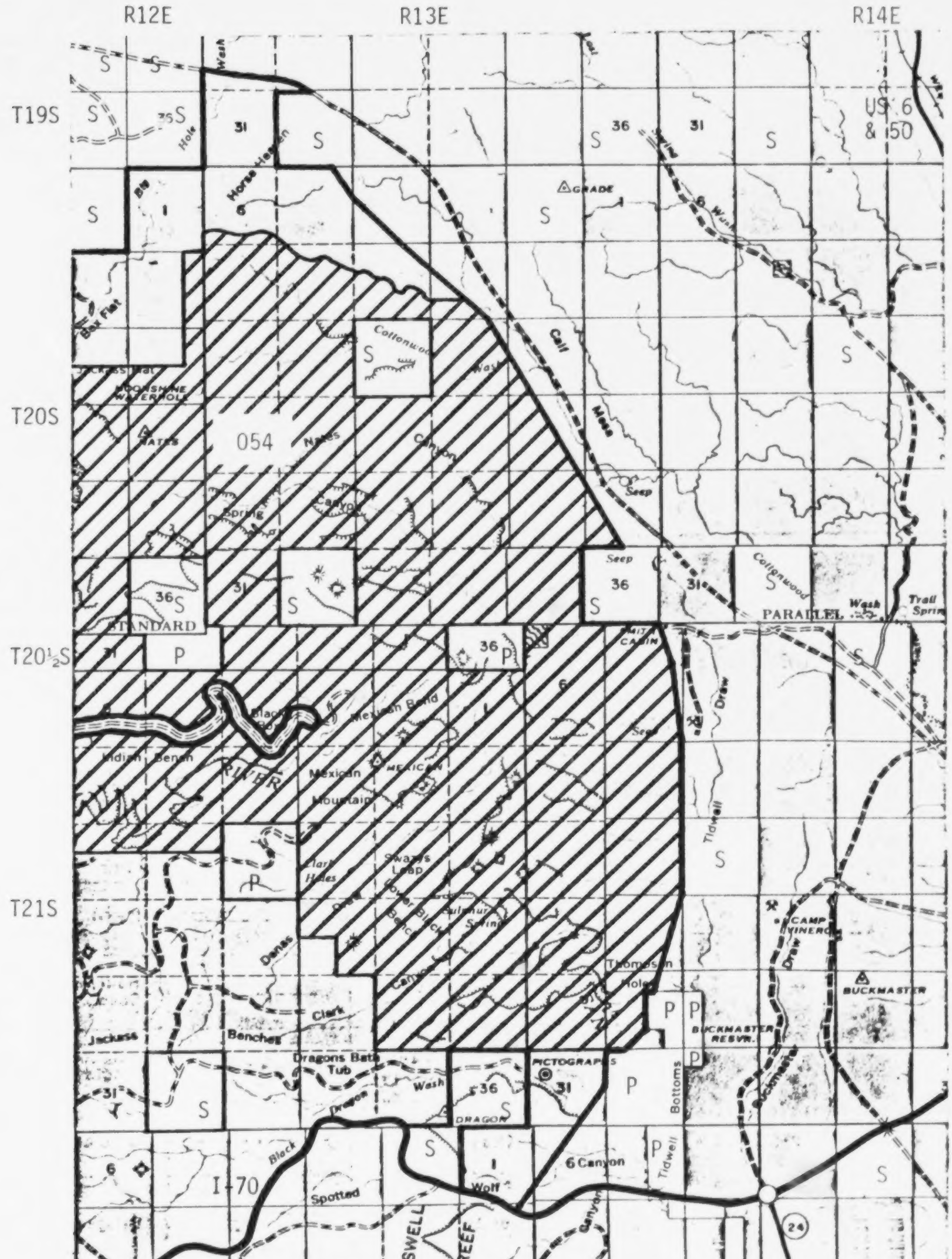
5. RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION: The particulars of the "conservationist" proposal are unclear as no specific information was provided other than the acreage. The Director's authority was correctly applied to areas not exhibiting outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation under OAD 78-61. State lands are not part of the unit. One road and several ways were identified which entered from the west. A road and several ways were also identified in the south. None of these remain within the WSA. Ways which do not meet the criteria of regular maintenance or use are not roads. Field checks of comments stating that other imprints were present, determined that a 2,180 acre area along the river in the west is no longer natural. The imprints in this area include cumulative impacts of numerous ORV tracks, grazing improvements, oil & gas exploration holes, pits and blading associated with surface rock quarrying, camp sites and the campground facilities. The metal buildings and the bridge are not within the WSA. Imprints and areas outside the unit were not considered in appraising opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation or supplemental values in accordance with OAD 78-61. Given the size and the topographic and vegetative screening within the WSA, imprints which remain constrain outstanding opportunities which are present. The airstrip is returning to a substantially unnoticeable condition but the impacts in the west could not be reclaimed by hand labor or natural conditions. Potential conflicts with various other uses are not appropriate considerations in the inventory but will be considered in the WSA (study) phase.



UT-060-054 - MEXICAN MOUNTAIN
(Sheet 1 of 2 - West Half)
MEXICAN MOUNTAIN WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80



UT-060-054 - MEXICAN MOUNTAIN
(Sheet 2 of 2 - East Half)
MEXICAN MOUNTAIN WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-067 WSA ACREAGE: 33,870

UNIT NAME: TURTLE CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 39,760

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in the mountainous area east of the Book Cliffs in Emery and Carbon Counties. It contains a series of highly dissected ridges lying between Turtle Canyon and Range Creek Canyon. The unit supports groves of Douglas fir on north-facing slopes, mountain shrubs, and pinyon-juniper woodland on south-facing slopes.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 39,760 acres of BLM administered land. Within unit boundaries lie an additional 2,680 acres of State and 40 acres of privately owned land. The unit is about 13 miles long on a northwest-southeast axis and about 6 miles wide.

B. NATURALNESS: Over 85 percent of the unit (about 34,660 acres) appear natural. Imprints along the western boundary associated with cattle operations and coal mining have caused the only substantially noticeable loss of naturalness.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Both landforms and vegetation provide screening conducive to outstanding opportunities for solitude. Several small fingers of land are created by adjacent land ownership patterns along unit boundaries; opportunities for solitude would be limited within these areas.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The rugged topography and in-places dense vegetation lend themselves to primitive and unconfined recreation. The terrain is both scenic and challenging. Several species of game are known to inhabit the area. Overall opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding.

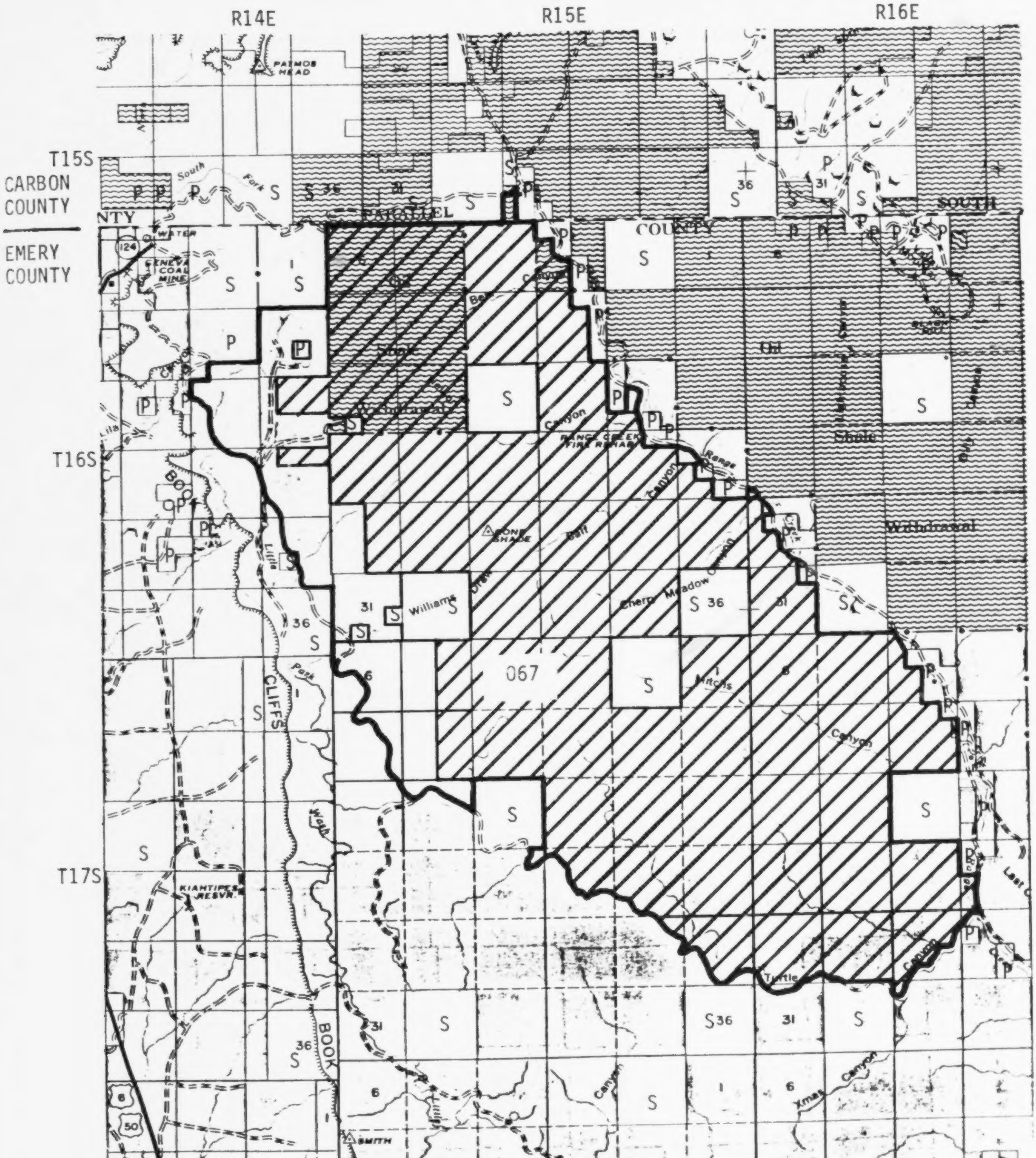
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit includes geologic, scenic, and ecologic supplemental values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Thirty comments were received pertaining to this unit; 22 were specific and 8 were general. The 30 comments received represented 22 individuals, 5 government agencies and 4 organized groups. Twenty comments supported identification of a WSA; 10 did not. Twelve comments supported a larger WSA proposal (Utah Wilderness Association (UWA), conservationists, etc.) combining this unit with UT-060-068A on the rationale that the southwest boundary road is an impassable way. The combined WSA proposed by the UWA would include the southeast portion of unit UT-060-067 which was excluded from the BLM proposal. One respondent felt increasing the WSA would enhance managability and opportunities for solitude.

Two respondents felt that the way crossing the southeast of the unit was absent or unnoticeable. Another comment felt that the western boundary corresponded more to legal boundaries than the limits of naturalness. Seven comments stated that roads, mineral exploration wells and livestock improvements are present within the unit but no locations were given. Another felt roads had been "renamed" ways. Nine respondents felt the unit was mainly natural and that the steep, rugged terrain provided outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation (particularly hiking and backpacking); six did not. Seven comments cited supplemental values such as wildlife habitat, scenic beauty and ecologic or geologic interest in the unit. Many comments referred to considerations such as potential mineral values, livestock uses and State lands which lie within the WSA.

4. DECISION: The originally proposed WSA will become a WSA with two changes in the original proposal as described below. The Turtle Canyon WSA contains 33,870 acres.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: While the Turtle Canyon road (southwest boundary) is occasionally impassible it does meet the definition of a road; it was constructed and has a history of both maintenance and use. It was not maintained in the summer of 1979 due to lack of funds despite being closed by severe winter weather and flash flooding. Thus this road is the SW boundary of the unit. The way crossing the southeast of the unit was found, after additional field work, not to be continuous nor substantially noticeable. As a result, the southeast portions of the unit are not separated from the WSA by imprint patterns and have been added to the WSA. The western boundary of the proposed WSA does reflect that portion which is no longer natural. The boundary is legally defined following numerous mineral exploration imprints and excluding the narrow fingers between ways in accordance with OAD 78-61, Change 3. Field investigation confirmed previously identified imprints and located additional imprints affecting about 1,640 additional acres. A files check revealed these were due to 1974 coal exploration. These ways and drill sites may represent the additional impacts to which several comments referred and will be excluded from the WSA. Other imprints which remain in the proposed WSA do not meet the definition of a road, are not concentrated or extensive and do not represent substantially noticeable imprints. Ways within the unit do not receive regular maintenance or regular and continuous use. Specific comments addressing solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and supplemental values generally paralleled the Moab District analysis previously outlined. Comments referring to mineral potential do not pertain to the inventory criteria and will be considered in the study (WSA) process. State lands were not considered to be part of the unit and only affected those areas within the unit where they created a constricted configuration. Two additional narrow fingers of land were created by adjustments in the WSA, one along the southeast boundary road and another south of the exploration area in the west. Under OAD 78-61 these areas (about 420 acres) will also be excluded due to their lack of outstanding opportunities resulting from their configurations.



UT-060-067 - TURTLE CANYON
TURTLE CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO. UT-060-068A WSA ACREAGE: 217,130

UNIT NAME: DESOLATION CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 340,880

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is in the Book Cliffs and Roan Cliffs formations in east central Utah. Desolation and Gray Canyons of the Green River together extend the length of the unit while the Price River cuts across it. Many side canyons including Rattlesnake Canyon run to these rivers. The unit has a complex, rugged topography. Vegetation varies from riparian to desert plateau to Douglas fir forest. The unit lies in Carbon, Emery and Grand Counties; roughly "L"-shaped, it is about 51 miles long, 8 miles wide on the north and 28 miles wide at the base.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 340,880 acres of BLM administered land. Additionally 27,960 acres of State and 3,640 acres of private land lie within the unit's boundaries. One hundred sixty acres of inheld BLM administered land lie within a block of State and private lands and are isolated from the remainder of the unit. The unit was part of a larger unit, UT-060-068, which was split when field investigations identified a road up Tusher Canyon. The other portion is designated UT-060-068B and is discussed accordingly. The status of two additional State sections was clarified during the public comment period.

B. NATURALNESS: Human imprints are associated with minerals exploration and development and with ranching. They are limited to the ridge tops in the northern end of the unit and the canyon bottoms and lower benches in the southern end. A loss of naturalness has occurred to approximately 30,190 acres. The majority of the unit remains apparently natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The majority of the unit presents outstanding opportunities for solitude due to topographic and vegetative screening. Eleven boundary areas have limited opportunities for solitude due to irregular boundary configuration, totaling 1,580 acres. In addition, certain areas within the unit such as Suluar Mesa in the south and Cedar Ridge or Horse Bench in the north do not exhibit topographic or vegetative screening conducive to outstanding opportunities for solitude.

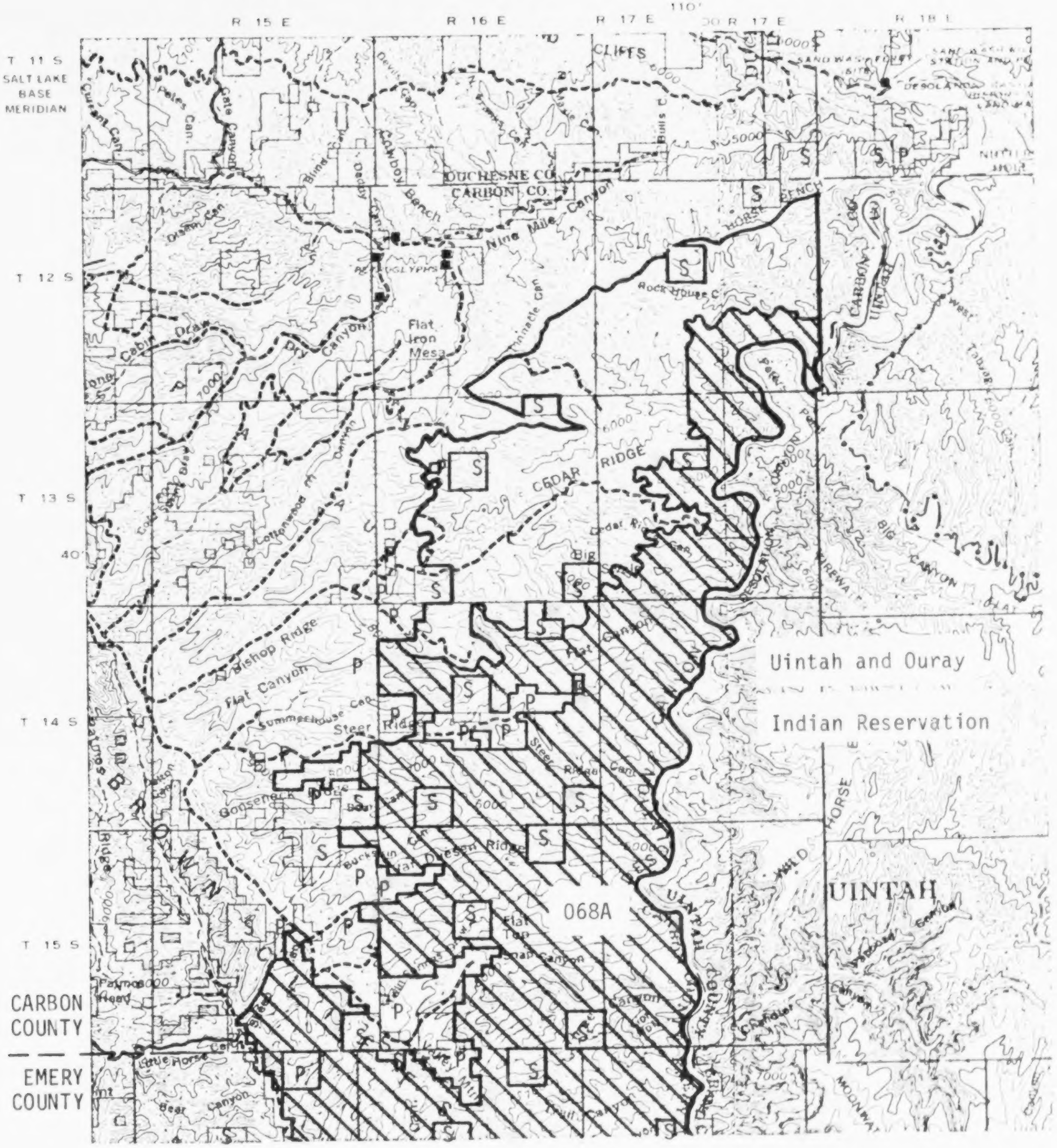
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The diversity of terrain within the unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Hiking, backpacking, horse packing, boating, hunting, fishing and winter activities are all possibilities.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit exhibits scenic, geologic, ecologic, historic and archaeologic values. It provides a known habitat for three threatened or endangered fish species, bald eagles and possibly peregrine falcons. Desolation Canyon is a National Historic Landmark.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Fifty-eight comments were received pertaining to this unit; 46 were specific and 12 were general. Responses were received from 52 individuals, 5 organized groups and 4 government agencies. The majority of these comments favored designation of a WSA. Twenty comments supported increasing the size of the proposed WSA and combining it with other units, mainly UT-060-067 and 068B. Eleven comments addressed imprints and roads but only four gave specific locations. Specific comments generally supported the Moab District appraisal of the naturalness and imprints within the WSA. Seven comments on the Beckwith Plateau way found it not to be significantly noticeable although one respondent proposed using it as a WSA boundary. Eight comments found the Beckwith Plateau-Price River area to be natural and to offer outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Four comments found the ways on the Big Horn Benches to be unnoticeable due to their current inaccessibility or their locations relative to topography. Ways along the Price River and the west side of the Green River were considered unnoticeable by eight respondents. Several comments questioned adjustments made under the Director's authority under OAD 78-61, Change 3. Seven respondents stated outstanding opportunities for solitude were not present due to the visibility of towns, coal mines or adjacent lands. Other comments relative to solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and supplemental values generally supported the existence of opportunities and values already identified. Some comments addressed other potential land uses, the need for wilderness or imprints and supplemental values on non-Federal lands which were not considered in the inventory process.

4. DECISION: The Desolation Canyon WSA, a WSA of 217,130 acres, will be identified. This is a modification of the original proposal.

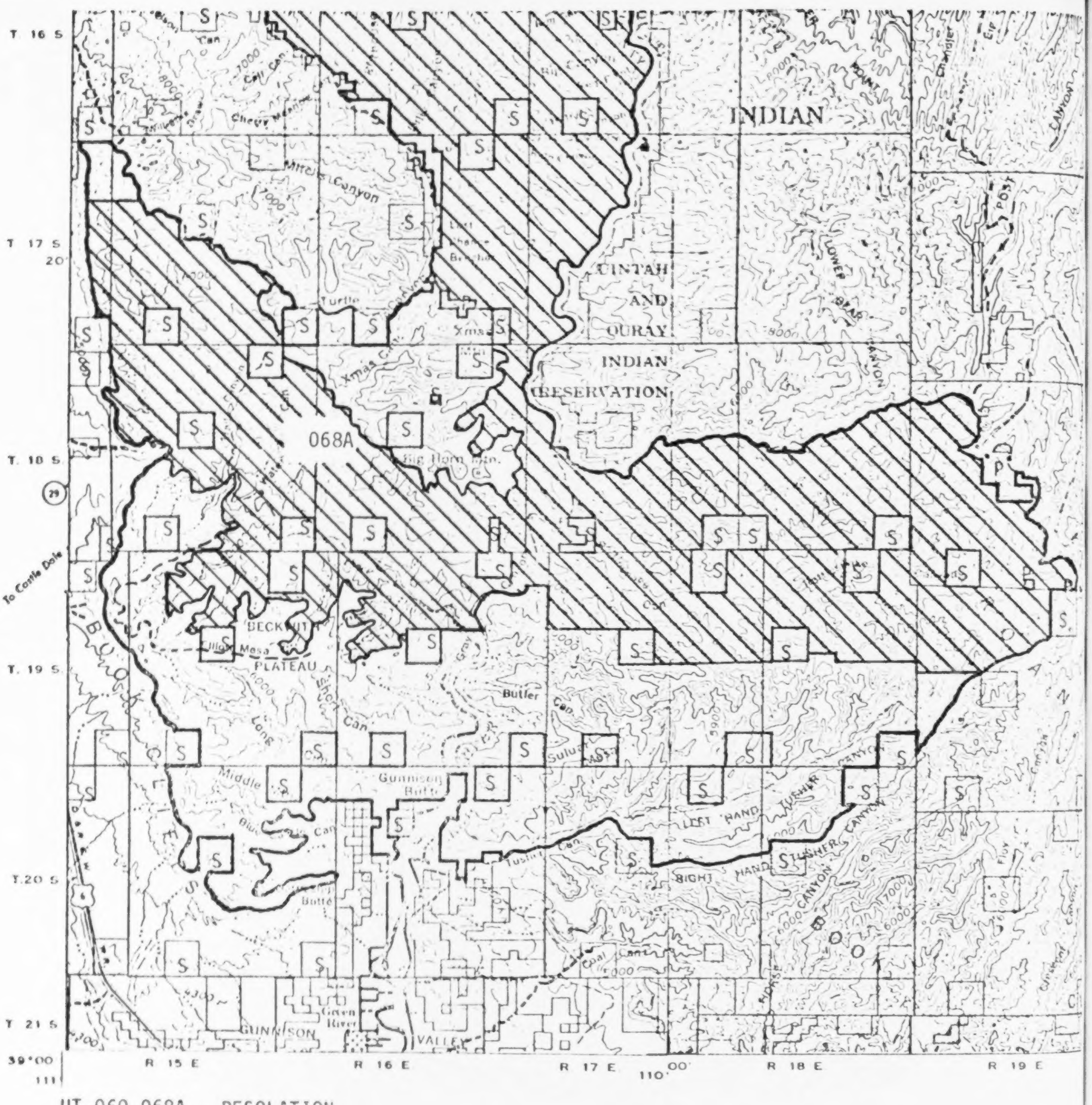
5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The boundaries separating this unit from UT-060-067 and -068B are roads with a history of use and maintenance. Turtle and Tusher Canyon roads are at times impassable between maintenance periods. Thus combining units would not be justified. Indian, private or State lands were not considered in assessing the wilderness criteria beyond their effects on configuration. The ways along the Price and Green Rivers were found on field checking to be substantially unnoticeable. The Beckwith way is substantially noticeable due to its heavy cut and fill construction. In field checking public comments additional mineral exploration impacts (1974) were located, impacting 1,490 acres in the north Little Park area. The remainder of this area is natural and not isolated by imprints. Along the Price River additional challenging white water rafting opportunities were identified which together with hiking, backpacking and horseback activities offer outstanding primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities. Due to a challenge and diversity of recreational opportunities, a 45,230-acre area (Emery County), including the Price River, its side canyons and natural portions of the Little Park area, was added to the WSA. The ways on the Big Horn Benches are numerous and substantially noticeable despite their current inaccessibility. In the Jack Creek, Rock House Canyon, Big Swale and Suluar Mesa areas the Director's authority was correctly applied under OAD 78-61, Change 3. While opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are present in these areas they are not outstanding. Imprints outside the unit were not considered in assessing opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.



UT-060-068A - DESOLATION
(Sheet 1 of 2 - North Half)
DESOLATION WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

¼" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80



UT-060-068A - DESOLATION
(Sheet 2 of 2 - South Half)
DESOLATION WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

¼" = 1 mile
MDO-3/80

UNIT NO: UT-060-068B WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: FLOY CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 82,300

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in northern Grand County in the Book Cliffs about 4 miles north of Interstate Highway 70 between Thompson and Green River. It is bordered on the east by the road up Sego Canyon, on the north by the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation, on the northwest by the road up Right Hand Tusher Canyon, and by non-Federal land, local roads, and the face of the Book Cliffs on the south. The unit is characterized by a series of cliff faces, ledges and benches, rising almost 5,000 feet from southwest to northeast.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 82,300 acres of BLM administered land. Additionally, 4,640 acres of State and 200 acres of private lands lie within unit boundaries. The unit was originally part of a larger unit, UT-060-068, which was split by the road up Tusher Canyon.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit is rugged with generally sparse vegetation, typical of the lower Book Cliffs formation. Human imprints are associated with ranching and minerals exploration activities and are limited to areas of accessibility: the tops of the lower benches and the canyon bottoms. Roads up two of the three major canyon systems and along the lower benches essentially split the unit into 4 parcels.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE The size of the unit does not constrain opportunities for solitude, but the pattern of permanent human imprints, inheld non-Federal land and boundary configurations limits opportunities for solitude in about 30% of the unit. The remainder, in three separate parcels, does not exhibit outstanding opportunities for solitude due to lack of extensive topographic and/or vegetative screening. Vegetation is generally sparse, and landforms present open slopes, flat benches, and relatively wide canyon bottoms typical of the lower Book Cliffs.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The pattern of permanent imprints, in relation to patterns of inheld non-Federal land and boundary configurations, constricts opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

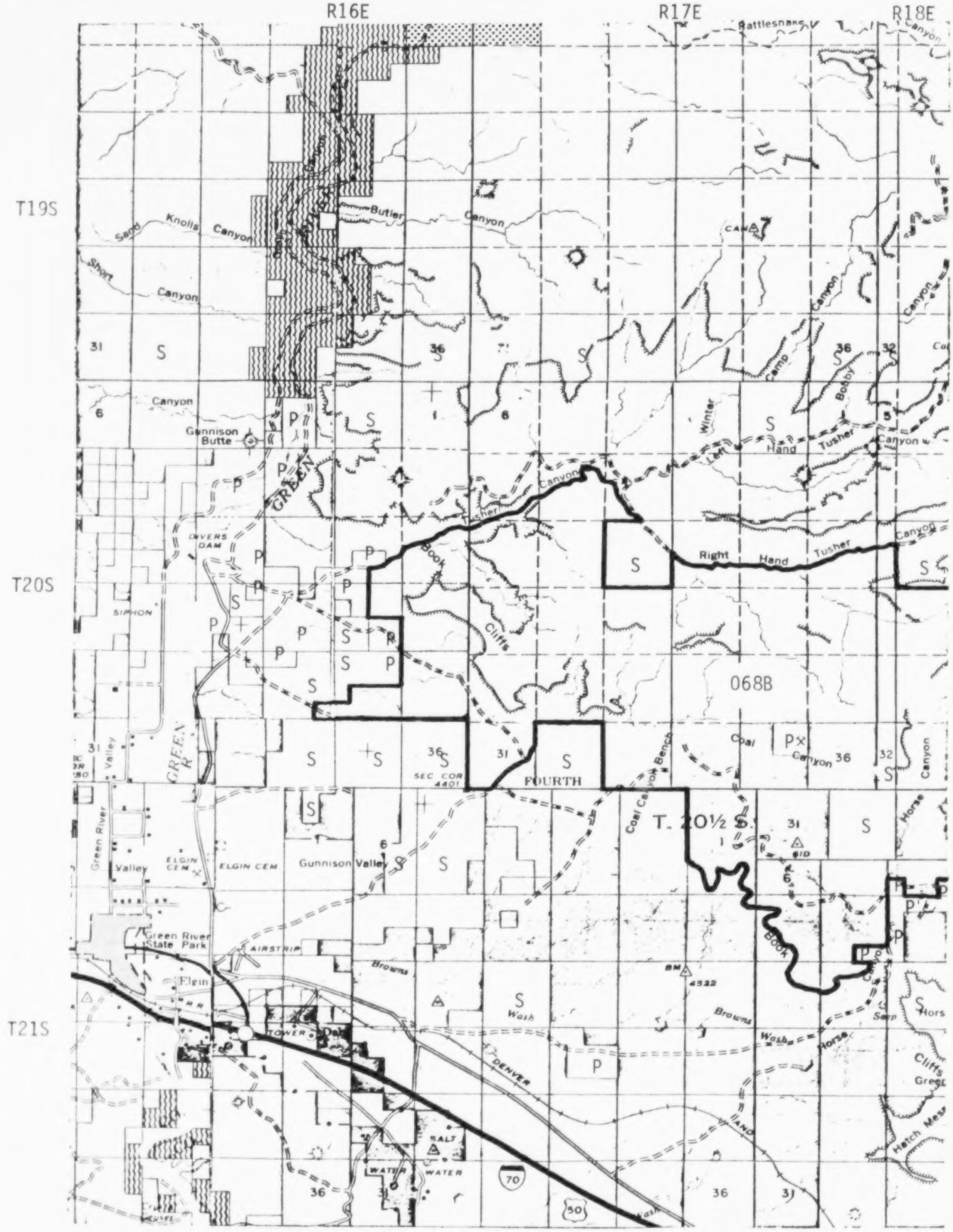
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Comments were received from 30 individuals and 4 groups; 11 were general. Most comments favored WSA status; 2 individuals and 1 group opposed it. This unit was addressed with unit UT-060-068A by 3 comments.

The status of several roads noted on inventory maps was challenged, including the boundary with UT-060-068A (roads up Right Hand Tusher, Coal, Floy and Thompson Canyons). Citizen field checks by 2 groups indicated these were ways, not roads, and were not substatially noticeable. Apparent post-FLPMA imprints were pointed out in lower Floy Canyon. The entire unit was recommended for WSA status by 4 comments; an 80,000 acre WSA by 11. One supported a WSA in the northern end as a bridge between UT-060-068A and UT-060-100C if these contain WSA's. One protested exclusion of the unit in that flat desert areas would qualify for WSA status. Three respondents noted a loss of naturalness (roads, fences, ponds, trails) and stated these could not be reclaimed; others stated the unit was natural throughout or that the few imprints were reclaiming naturally. Many respondents noted that the size, topography, vegetative cover and remoteness provided outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation; 2 that there were no opportunities for either. The effect of inholdings of non-Federal land on opportunities for solitude was questioned; percentages of non-Federal land and the statement that most inholdings were peripheral were given to support this contention. Supplemental ecologic, geologic, historic, archeologic, scenic and educational values were noted, along with ORV use. The comment was made to leave the area for multiple use.

4. DECISION: The original proposal to drop the unit from further study will be implemented.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Although site-specific information was presented, field checks verified the original findings. Both aerial and ground field checks were made of the status of roads/ways within the unit. Although seasonal landslides and washouts occur, checks verified roads shown were constructed, do receive periodic maintenance, and are used predominantly for livestock operations. Roads shown up Thompson, Floy, Right Hand Threeforks, Coal, Right Hand Tusher, and Showerbath Canyons were verified along with ways up Left Hand Threeforks, along Coal Canyon Bench, and in Tom Farmer Valley. Additionally, a short way up Horse Canyon was noted. No road or way was found in Dry Canyon, originally shown as having a road. The original rationale applies: inheld non-Federal land affects opportunities for solitude and recreation in that these create areas ("holes") outside unit or WSA boundaries where Federal regulations do not apply. It is the pattern formed by inholdings that is relevant, not necessarily the percentages involved. Six of the nine inholdings are more than a mile from unit boundaries; most connect with imprint patterns. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, while present, would be less than outstanding.

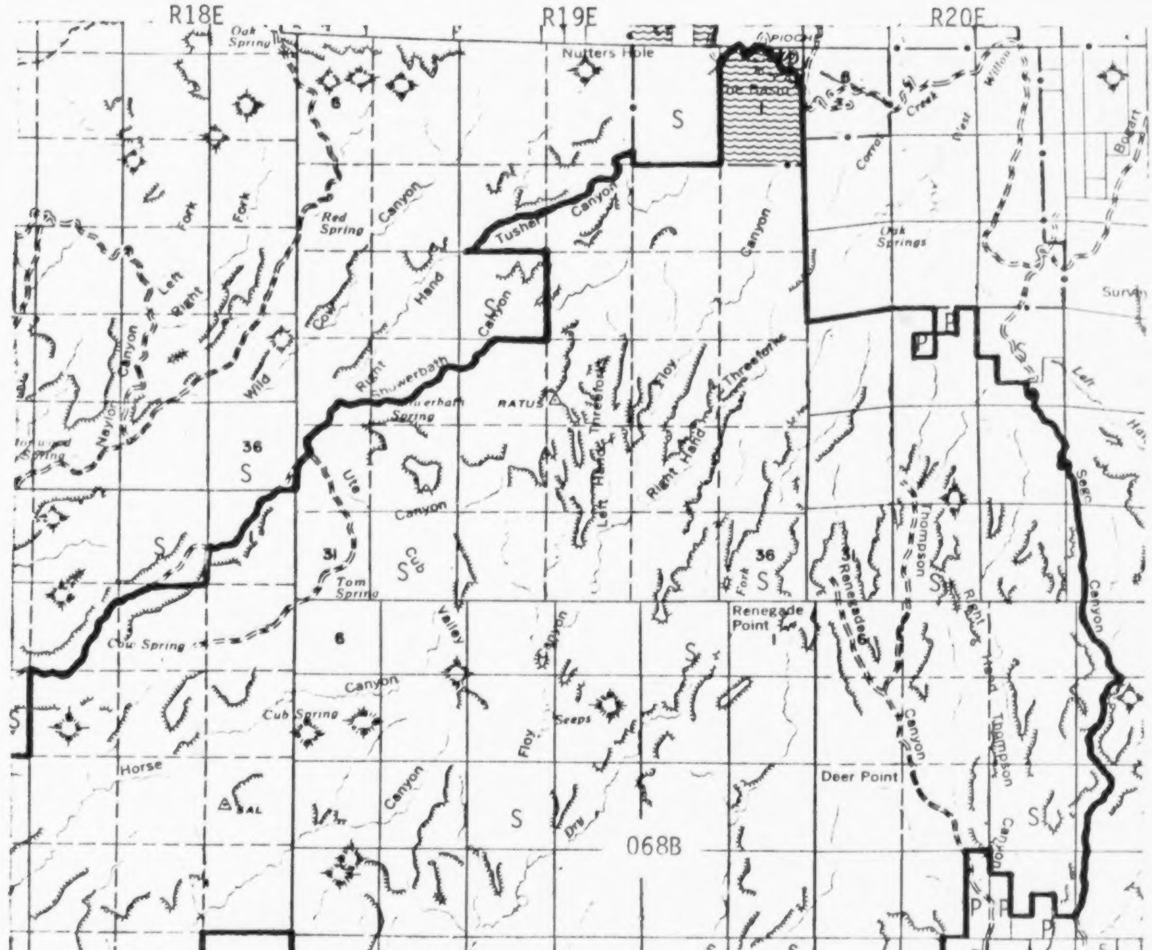
Other comments did not provide new information. Comments supporting smaller WSA's did not specify boundaries. The comment regarding flat desert areas seemed mis-directed as the unit does not contain this type of area. WSA criteria do not address designating an area as a bridge between two more deserving WSA's.



UT-060-068B - FLOY CANYON
(Sheet 1 of 2 - West Half)

LEGEND
~ - Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80



UT-060-068B - FLOY CANYON
(Sheet 2 of 2 - East Half)

LEGEND
~ - Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-070 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: JACK CREEK UNIT ACREAGE: 6,570

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in the Roan Cliffs in eastern Carbon County, northeast of East Carbon. It is bordered by the roads out Cottonwood Ridge and Bishop Ridge and by non-Federal land on the south. Jack Creek Canyon runs the length of the unit.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 6,570 acres. One 40-acre tract of privately-owned land lies within the unit boundaries. The unit is about 6 miles long on a southwest-northeast axis and about 2 miles wide.

B. NATURALNESS: About 70 percent of the unit, or 4,700 acres, appears natural. This is less than the 5,000 acre minimum. Impacts within the unit are associated with range improvements and minerals exploration. Generally occurring near the northwestern boundary, the cumulative impact of these imprints eliminates about 1,870 acres from consideration.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Landforms in the unit consist of two flat benches with a broad-bottomed canyon between. Topographic screening is minimal. Vegetation consists primarily of a pinyon-juniper woodland with some screening potential. Vegetation in the creek bottom is primarily a sagebrush community with limited screening potential. The size of the unit does not provide a feeling of vastness; configuration of the unit is such that internal solitude is limited by exterior shape. Opportunities for solitude are not found to be outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The landforms and vegetation of the unit do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation within the unit. No focal features exist to attract hikers; the terrain is neither especially scenic nor challenging. Some hunting probably occurs within the unit, but wildlife populations are typical of the area. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not found to be outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None noted.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: One general comment supporting the BLM recommendation was received.

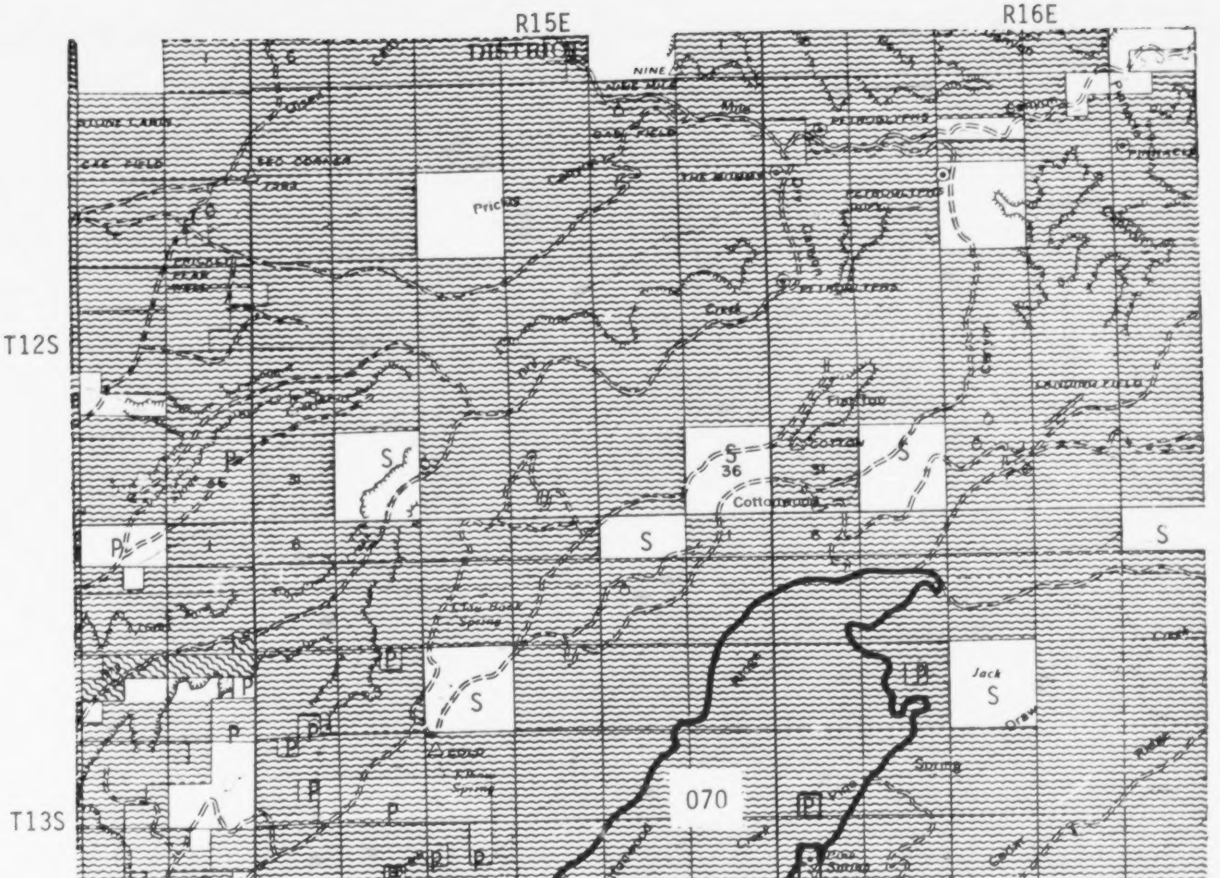
4. DECISION: The unit will be dropped from WSA consideration, in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The unit meets size requirements. Human imprints within the unit are related to range improvements and mineral exploration. These impacts, covering just under 30 percent of the unit, reduce the acreage of the natural part of the unit to less than 5,000 acres. Within the area considered substantially natural, imprints are minor.

Topography of the unit consists of two flat ridges running the length of the unit with the sometimes steep-sided canyon of Jack Creek between. The creek bottom itself is also flat and open; screening potential provided by landforms is limited to some side drainages of Jack Creek. Vegetative screening is provided on ridge tops by pinyon-juniper woodland; pinyon-juniper growth in the slopes is more open and vegetation in the creek bottoms is predominantly a sagebrush-rabbitbrush community, providing only limited screening potential. Taken together, landforms and vegetation do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The relatively small size does not provide a feeling of vastness and the long and narrow configuration of the unit also limits opportunities. Considering these factors singly or in combination, opportunities for solitude are limited.

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are also limited. There are no focal points or scenic features of interest. Some hunting does occur, but wildlife populations are not diverse. In general, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding.

The acreage of the unit meeting the naturalness criteria is below the 5,000 acre minimum. Beyond that, the unit affords neither outstanding opportunities for solitude nor outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The only public comment received was from an organized group and supported the BLM recommendation not to propose a WSA. The comment was general and did not offer any additional information. Therefore, the unit does not meet WSA criteria.



UT-060-070 - JACK CREEK

LEGEND

- Unit Boundary

S - State Lands

P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile

MDO- 8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-072 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: DRY CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 14,540

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in the mountainous Roan Cliffs in northeastern Carbon County, just north of Bruin Point. Dry Creek Canyon and Cottonwood Canyon border the unit with Nine Mile Canyon running along the northern end. The central part of the unit consists of flat benches with pinyon-juniper woodland; southern slopes rise to Bruin Point with mountain shrub cover. The northern end is highly dissected with pockets of Douglas fir on north-facing slopes.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 14,540 acres of BLM-administered land. Three 40-acre tracts of privately-owned land lie within the unit boundaries. The unit is 13 miles long and varies from ½ to 2 miles wide with most of the unit being about 1 mile wide.

B. NATURALNESS: Imprints of human activities are minimal, and associated with range management and minerals exploration. Most occur near unit boundaries and, taken singly or cumulatively, are not significant impacts.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The extremely long, narrow configuration of the unit, combined with the relationship of the unit boundary to topographical and vegetative patterns, limits the opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The configuration of the unit and topographic conditions singly or in combination limit the opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains supplemental scenic, geologic, archaeoligic and ecologic values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Two comments were received. One general comment was received supporting the BLM recommendation. Another respondent felt opportunities for solitude were present due to the size and topography of the unit.

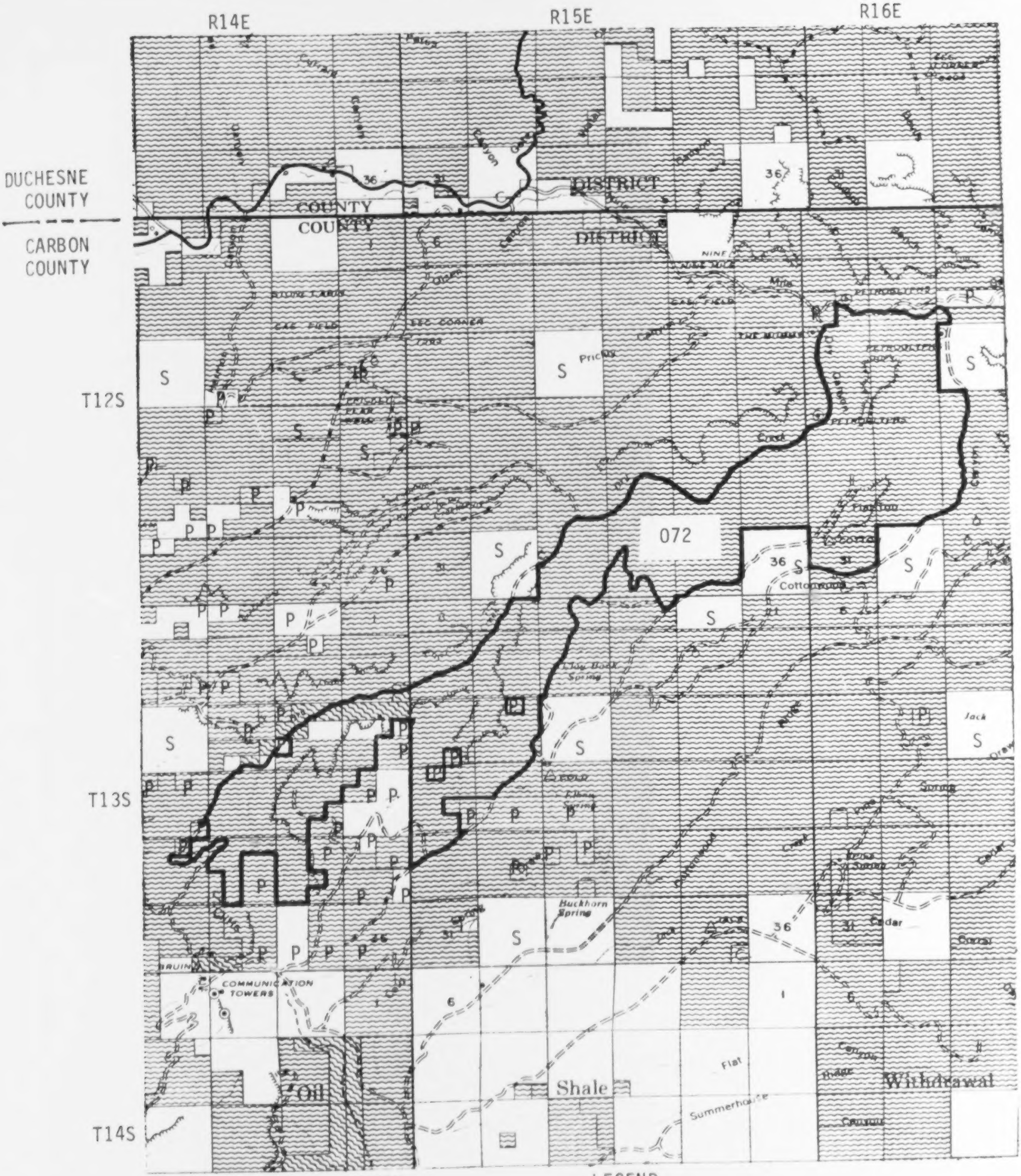
4. DECISION: The unit will be dropped from WSA consideration, in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Acreage requirements are met and most of the unit appears natural. However, the extremely irregular configuration of the unit adversely affects opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation that might otherwise be present. While the dissected canyon systems in the northern part of the unit, supporting a variety of vegetation, may provide some opportunities for solitude, the unit boundaries cut across these areas in such a way to constrain opportunities that might otherwise be present.

Topography in other parts of the unit consists of flat benches, open slopes, and flat open canyon bottoms with pinyon-juniper stands or sagebrush parks. Neither topography nor vegetation provide sufficient screening to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit is constricted in four places to less than ½ mile wide, and averages about a mile wide throughout much of its length. The opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit is limited throughout.

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are also limited by the unit configuration. The unit may support some game species, and the general topography provides some hiking opportunities. However, the narrow shape and the relationship of unit boundaries to topography adversely affect opportunities for these activities. The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or for primitive and unconfined recreation.

No additional specific information was provided by public comment. Two comments were received, one from an individual and another from an organized group. One respondent felt that outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation were present. Moab District does not agree that those opportunities which may exist would be outstanding given the relationship of the topography, vegetation and unit configuration cited above. Thus, the unit does not meet WSA criteria.



UT-060-072 - DRY CANYON

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

¼" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-075 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: HARMON CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 7,160

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in northern Carbon County in the Roan Cliffs formation north of Mt. Bartles. It is bounded on the north by private land in Nine Mile Canyon, on the south by non-federal land around Mt. Bartles, and on the east and west by the roads up Harmon Canyon and Sheep Canyon.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 7,160 acres of BLM-administered land; 120 acres of private land lie within unit boundaries. It is about 5 miles long and 1 to 1½ miles wide.

B. NATURALNESS: About 1,500 acres (20%) in the east-central part have lost their natural character due to cumulative impacts of travelled "ways," drift fences, and other range improvements. The remainder of the unit appears relatively natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The irregular configuration of the natural area adversely affects solitude. Narrow fingers of land along the unit boundary do not present opportunities for solitude due to configuration; this affects about 750 acres. The topography and vegetation patterns in the western and northern periphery present a dissected landform with varied vegetation; however, the unit boundaries cut across the side canyons in such a way that opportunities for solitude are limited. The central and eastern areas have a broad, open aspect not conducive to opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The configuration of the unit limits opportunities for primitive recreation. The terrain and vegetation of most of the unit do not provide challenge or focal features to attract hikers. Recreational opportunities are not diverse.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains scenic and geologic values. Old log sheds in the central portion may have historic values.

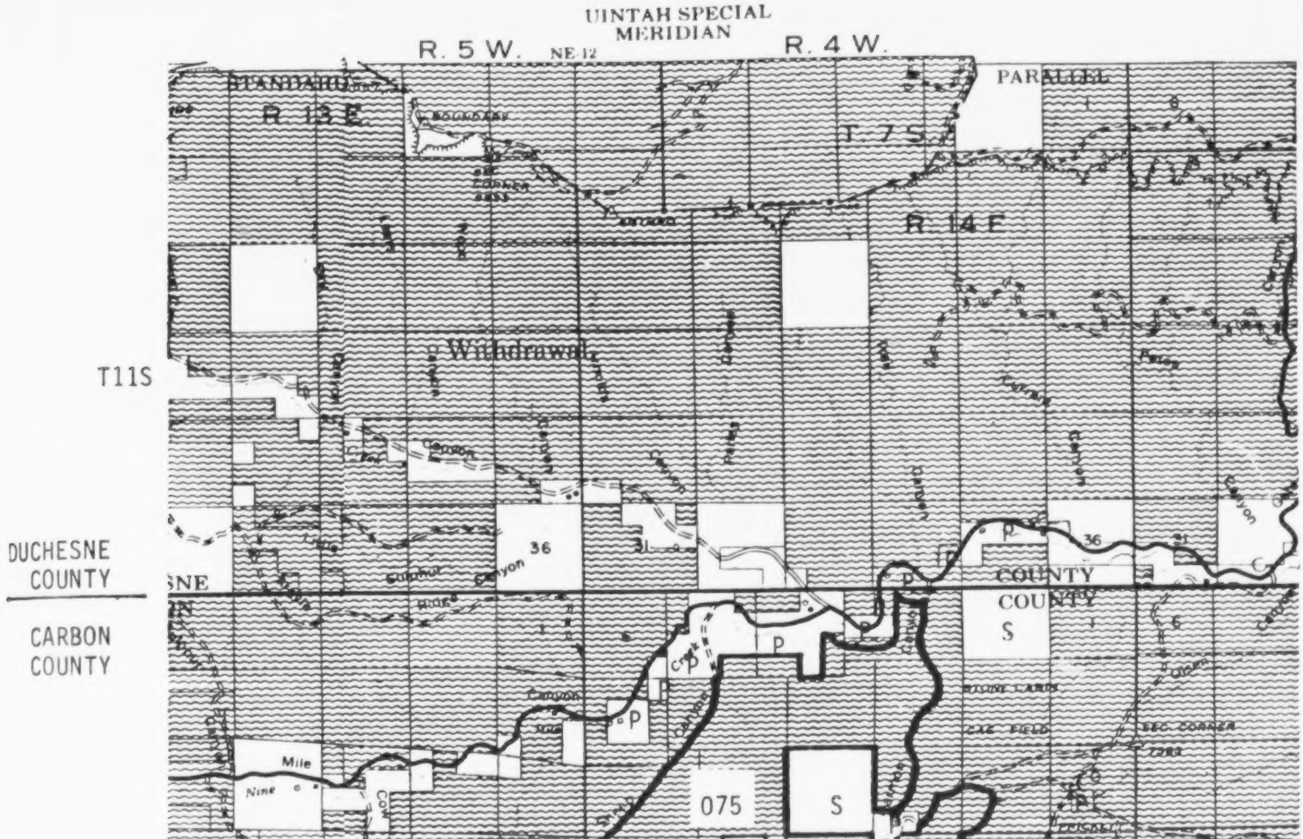
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: One general comment was received which supports the BLM recommendation.

4. DECISION: The unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The unit contains about 7,160 acres of BLM-administered land. About 1,500 acres (20%) of the unit have lost their natural character; an additional 750 acres (10%) should be eliminated because of boundary adjustments due to irregular land configurations. The remaining acreage, about 4,910 acres, is below the 5,000 acre minimum.

The irregular boundaries of the unit adversely affect opportunities for solitude. The western and northern edges have a steeply dissected landform with a variety of vegetation; however, this type of terrain is less than 1 mile wide. Due to the interaction of landforms with unit boundaries, outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation are not present. The central and eastern portions of the unit have open benches or slopes covered with low-growing vegetation, which provide limited opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation.

The unit does not provide an area of 5,000 acres which meets WSA criteria. The irregular configuration of the unit, impacted by the surrounding pattern of non-Federal land, effectively precludes wilderness opportunities within the unit. The only public comment received was from an organized group. It supported the BLM recommendation not to propose a WSA and did not provide any additional specific information. The unit is found not to meet WSA criteria



UT-060-075 - HARMON CANYON

LEGEND

(heavy line) - Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-076 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: COW CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 5,000

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies within the Roan Cliffs one mile south of the Carbon-Duchesne county line in northeastern Carbon County. It lies between the Cow Canyon and Sheep Canyon Roads; Nine Mile Canyon runs just north of the unit. The southern boundary of the unit is non-federal land northwest of Mt. Bartles.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 5,000 acres of BLM administered land. No State or private land lies within the unit. The unit is about 6 miles long and varies in width from 1/8 mile to 3 miles.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit is almost entirely natural in appearance, as the only imprints of man are a short length of drift fence and 2 miles of ways.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The irregular boundary configuration adversely affects about 25 percent of the unit in the northeastern and southwestern portions. The unit contains a central flat ridge intersected by several small canyons. Ridge tops and canyon bottoms are vegetated with sagebrush; scattered stands of pinyon-juniper woodland and isolated pockets of Douglas fir also grow within the unit. Neither topography nor vegetation offer sufficient screening to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The terrain is not especially scenic or challenging and does not provide areas of special interest.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None noted.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: One general comment was received which supports the BLM recommendation.

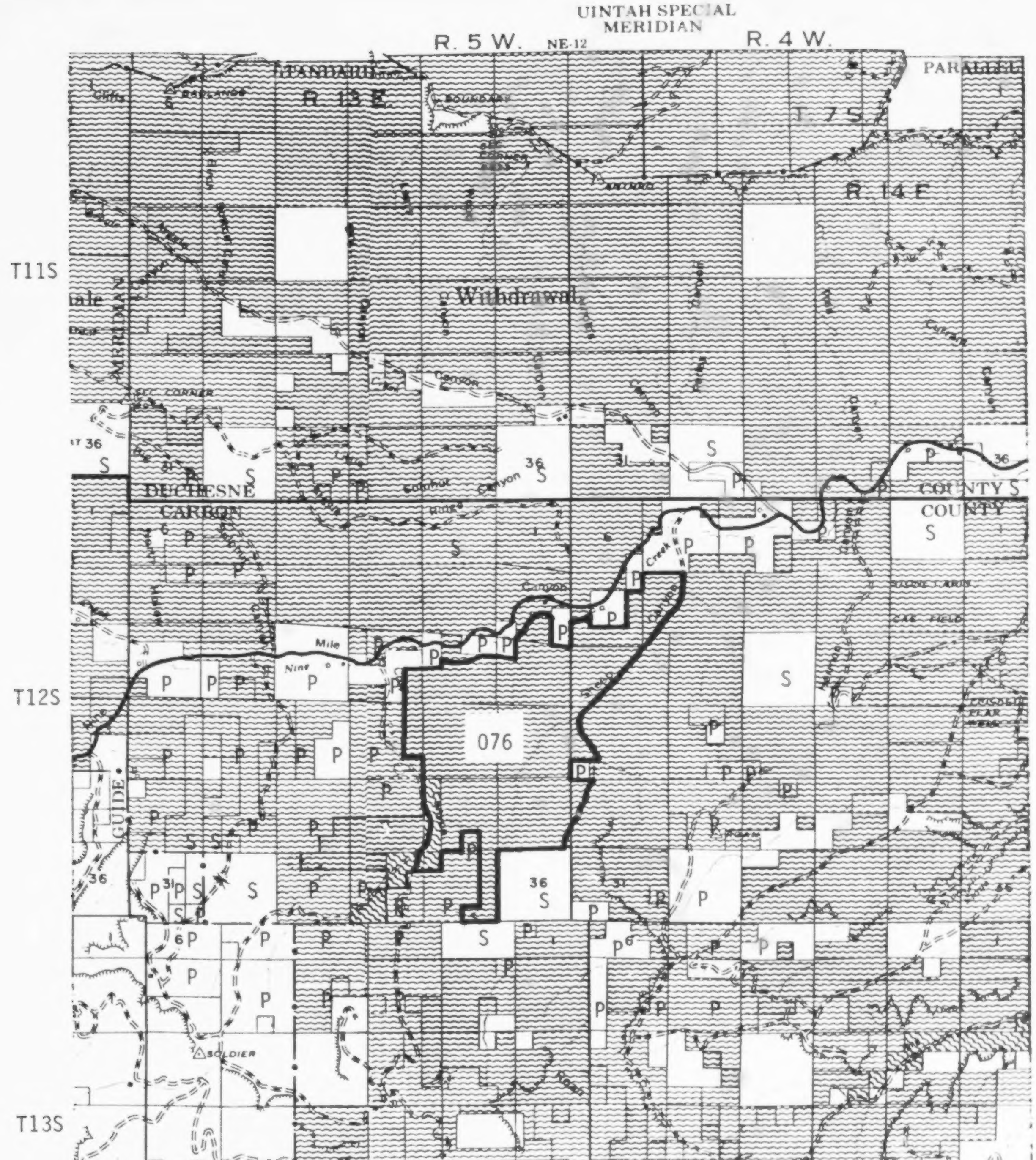
4. DECISION: The unit will be dropped from WSA consideration, in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION: The unit contains 5,000 acres of land. It does retain the appearance of naturalness. The configuration of the unit is irregular in shape, being narrow on both the northern and southern ends. The northern 2 miles average less than .50 in width.

Screening potential from landforms is limited to the side canyons running east and west; the central portion of the unit is a flat ridge. Vegetative screening is limited to isolated pockets and stands of aspen, Douglas fir, and pinyon-juniper woodlands. Ridges and canyon floors are open and predominantly sagebrush, providing only limited screening potential. Taken together, landforms and vegetation do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because of lack of screening. Further, the relatively small size and the configuration of the unit do not provide a feeling of vastness; opportunities for solitude are limited around the unit's irregular border. Considering these factors, singly or in combination, opportunities for solitude are limited.

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are also limited. The topography and vegetation are typical of the general region. There are no focal points or scenic features of interest. Some hunting does occur which is typical of the general area, and wildlife populations are not diverse. In general, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding.

The acreage of the unit barely meets the 5,000 acre minimum. Beyond that, the unit affords neither outstanding opportunities for solitude nor for primitive and unconfined recreation. The only public comment received was from an organized group. It supported the BLM recommendation not to propose a WSA and did not offer any additional specific information. Therefore, the unit does not meet WSA criteria.



UT-060-076 - COW CANYON

LEGEND

- Unit Boundaries
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-077 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: ARGYLE RIDGE UNIT ACREAGE: 8,940

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit, bisected by the Carbon-Duchesne County line, lies northeast of Price and south of Duchesne. Boundaries are formed primarily by privately owned land in Nine Mile and Argyle Canyons. The road up Big Sulfur Canyon forms the southwestern boundary. The unit exhibits the flat ridges and dissected canyon systems located in the mountainous Roan Cliffs.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit contains 8,940 acres of BLM administered land. Additionally one State section of 560 acres lies within unit boundaries. The irregularly shaped unit is about 5 miles long and about 3.5 miles wide.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit has a rugged upland topography, and vegetation patterns of sagebrush with scattered stands of pinyon-juniper woodland and Douglas fir. Portions of the unit have been impacted by traveled ways; the southern 60 percent of the unit remains apparently natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The configuration of inheld State and adjacent non-Federal land limits opportunities for solitude within the unit due to the several areas less than 1 mile wide. Topographic and vegetative screening provide some opportunities for solitude but taken together with boundary configuration these are limited.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The irregular boundary of the unit, interacting with landforms present, limits opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. This combined with the lack of focal features renders opportunities less than outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains archaeologic, historic and scenic values. A strip along Nine Mile Canyon, just south of the unit, is on the State Register of Historic Places and has been nominated to the National Register.

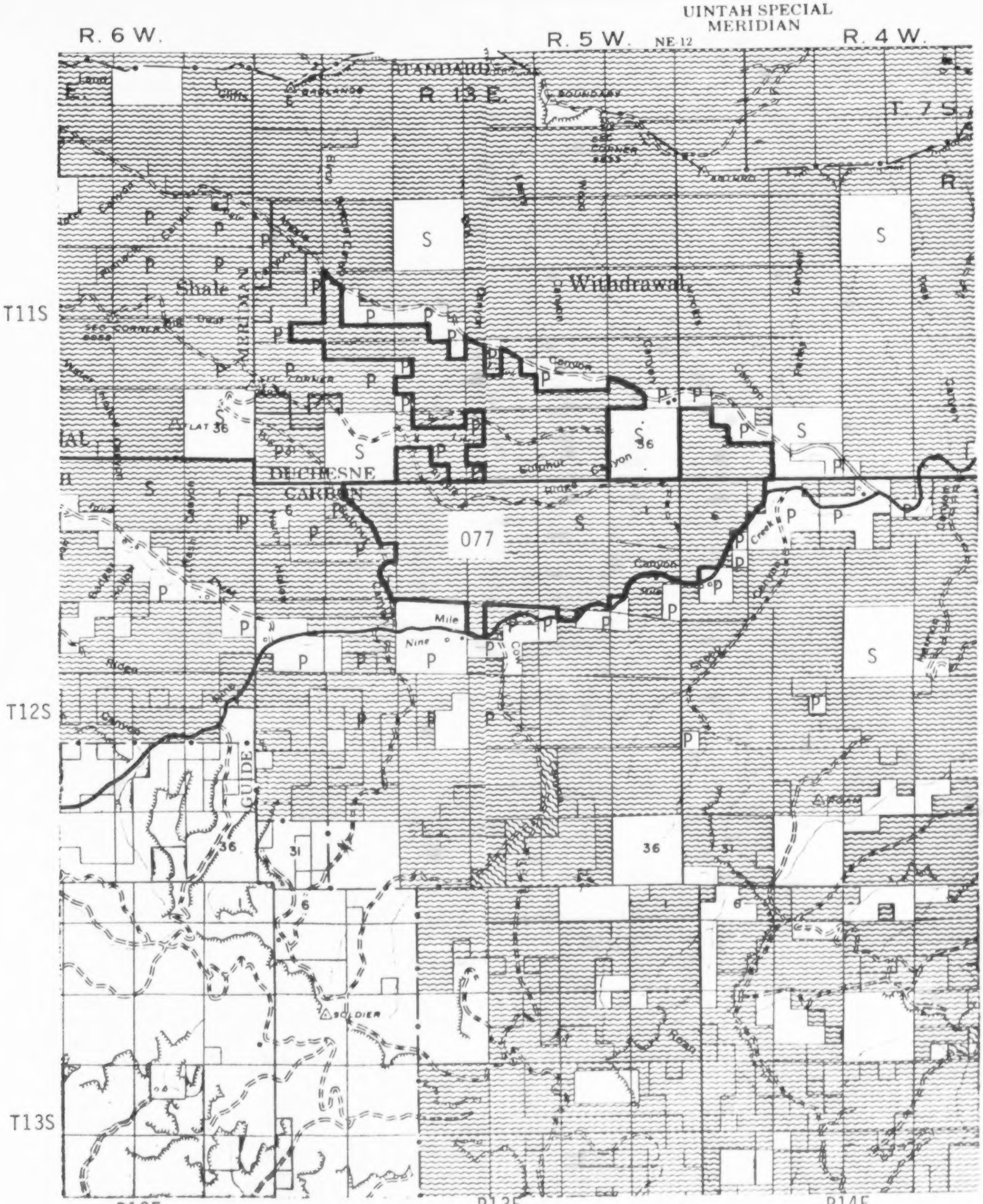
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: One general comment supporting the BLM recommendation was received.

4. DECISION: The unit will be dropped from WSA consideration, in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The unit meets size requirements; about 60 percent of the unit, or 5,500 acres, remains apparently natural. The irregular configuration of the unit adversely affects opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation that may be present.

Several bottlenecks of less than 1 mile occur, formed by adjacent and inheld non-Federal land; only about 25 percent of the unit presents an area over 1 mile wide. The unit exhibits a rugged topography but areas of dissected canyons occur only around the unit's perimeter; the central part of the unit is a flat ridge. Vegetative screening is less than outstanding. The boundary configuration, taken in conjunction with landforms present, limits opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

The unit does contain archaeologic, historic and scenic supplemental values. However, it does not meet WSA criteria. The only public comment received was from an organized group. It supported the BLM recommendation not to propose a WSA and did not offer any additional specific information. Thus, no WSA is proposed.



UT-060-077 - ARGYLE RIDGE

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO- 8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-088 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: SOUTH GOOSE NECK UNIT ACREAGE: 4,400

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit, bordered by the Colorado River, lies just south of Dead Horse Point State Park and is adjacent to Canyonlands National Park (NP). It is located in northwest San Juan County, just south of the Grand County line.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit, 4,400 acres of BLM administered land, does meet the size requirements because of its 2½ mile contiguous border with the Maze proposed Wilderness Area of Canyonlands NP. The area of the proposed Maze Wilderness is 105,980 acres (Wilderness Plan, Canyonlands NP, January 1978). An 80-acre tract of State land lies within unit boundaries.

B. NATURALNESS: The plateau vegetation of the unit is low and sparse, consisting mostly of scattered shadscale, Indian ricegrass and blackbrush. A 4½ mile access road extends through the northern part of the unit; one drill hole and 2 star shaped seismograph lines are present. Approximately 40% of the unit has lost its natural character.

C. SOLITUDE: Landforms in the unit consist of open flats, dissected by short canyons which run north to the Colorado River. Plateau vegetation is low-growing and scattered with riparian species along the river. None of the factors above afford outstanding screening. The size and configuration of the unit do not provide a feeling of vastness, even when considered with the adjacent Maze wilderness proposal. Opportunities for solitude are not found to be outstanding.

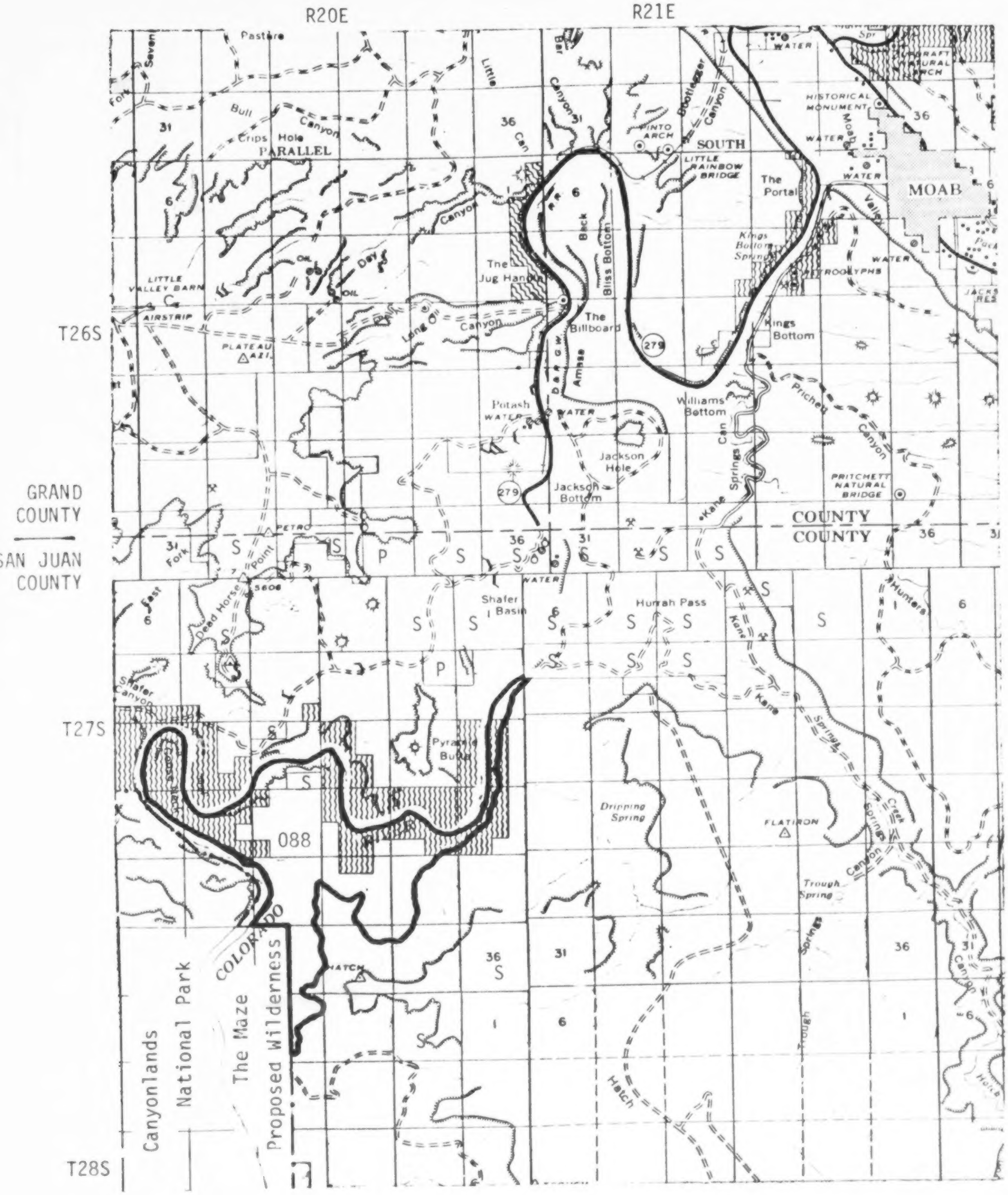
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The landforms and vegetation of the unit do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. No focal features exist to attract hikers; the terrain is neither especially scenic nor challenging, and there are limited feasible ways to get down to the river from the plateau. Some hunting opportunities may occur within the unit, but vegetation and topography would limit the wildlife populations. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not found to be outstanding.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit has scenic, geologic, and possibly historic values. The top of the Gooseneck was reportedly used in the Butch Cassidy era by cattle rustlers.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments were received from 3 individuals and 1 group; 3 supported the original decision to drop the unit. One favored WSA status based on "size and/or topography" providing solitude.

4. DECISION: Drop the unit from further study in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The comment on solitude was not site-specific and did not state opportunities were outstanding. No information was received which warrants a change of the proposed decision.



UT-060-088 - SOUTH GOOSE NECK

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands
- National Park Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO- 8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-100A WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: WESTWATER CREEK UNIT ACREAGE: 9,240

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in the Roan Cliff in northern Grand County. Roads define the borders of the unit, excluding three State sections in the east, west, and north. The unit consists of rugged canyons and fairly dense vegetative cover.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 9,420 acres of BLM administered land. There are no state or private lands within the unit. It was originally part of UT-060-100; however, human imprint and inheld land patterns have split the unit into three subparts. The unit is approximately 6 miles wide and 3 miles long.

B. NATURALNESS: Evidence of human activities within the unit appears to be associated primarily with oil and gas development. These imprints are substantially noticeable, causing a loss of naturalness in this portion of the unit. In the southern portion of the unit, human imprint patterns create narrow lobes of land (about a quarter of a mile to a mile in width) that are relatively natural. The remaining area of the unit (approximately 4,000 acres) tends to be natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Topography and vegetative screening contribute to opportunities for solitude. In the southern portion of the unit opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding due to the narrow configuration of the lobes of land between the human imprint patterns. In the northern natural areas, opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding due to the size and narrow configuration of the area.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Recreational opportunities include hiking, camping, hunting, and snowshoeing. These activities are not found to be outstanding because of the limitations brought about by the size of the area and human imprint patterns within it.

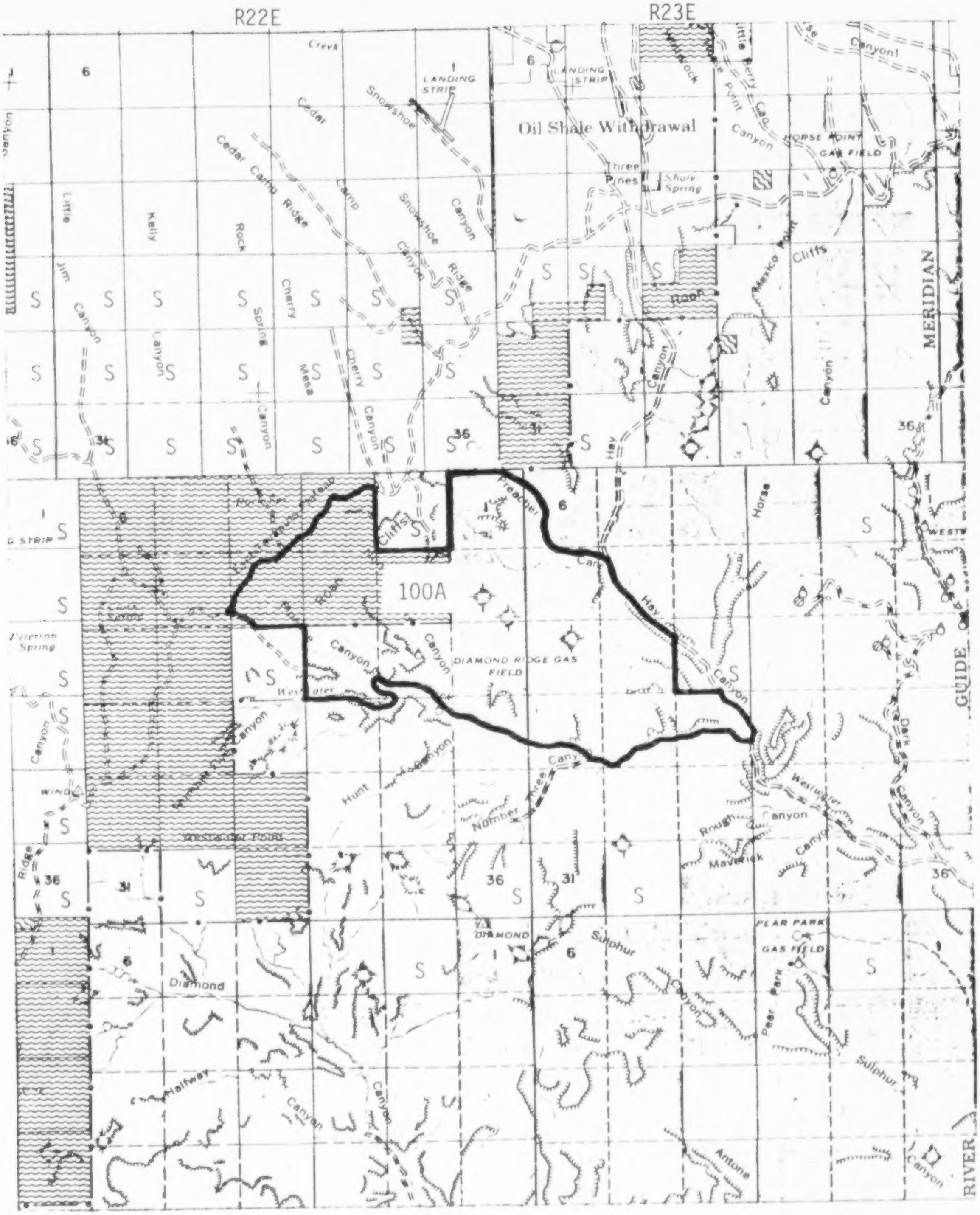
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Archaeological supplemental values may be present in the unit. The unit has scenic values as well.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Two comments were received (one from a group) which referenced this unit; they were both general in nature supporting the original proposal. Three other comments (including one group) referenced UT-060-100 of which this is a subpart; all were specific, one was in favor of WSA identification. Another individual referenced this unit as being adjacent to UT-060-100B.

The comment in favor of WSA identification stated the area was natural and gave information regarding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation (camping, hunting, horseback riding, hiking, photogrpahy, rock hounding and climbing). Supplemental values (archeologic, historic) and proximity to Utah State wilderness area were also mentioned. One comment referenced human imprints (roads, fences, trails, stock ponds, established use) and lack of reclamation potential; hunting was also mentioned. Oil and gas potential, production and known reserves and oil shale possibilities were mentioned by three comments. One comment suggested leaving area for multiple use.

4. DECISION: The unit will be dropped from further study as per the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Site specific information in comments addressing UT-060-100 did not clearly pertain to this unit. Features outside unit boundaries cannot be considered. Human imprints noted were not located; lack of reclamation potential was not supported. Current use patterns cannot be considered. According to definition, wilderness is part of recognized multiple use. Mineral potential is not addressed during the inventory process. Information provided was largely irrelevant; no new information was provided to warrant changing the original proposal.



UT-060-100A - WESTWATER CREEK

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
S - State Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-100B WSA ACREAGE: 48,240

UNIT NAME: DIAMOND CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 54,540

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in the Book Cliff and Roan Cliff ranges of Grand County. Deep cut canyons fill the northern portion of the unit, while long forked drainages with flat lobed benches comprise the remainder. Roads define the borders of the unit, excluding State sections and 3 areas of private land.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 54,540 acres of BLM administered land. There are 3,840 acres (6 sections) of State land within the unit. It was originally part of UT-060-100, Book Cliffs-Cottonwood Canyon initial inventory unit; however, roads and inheld land patterns split the unit into three subparts. The unit is approximately 13 miles wide and 8 miles long.

B. NATURALNESS: Evidence of human activities are associated with range, oil and gas development. These imprints occur along the borders in the east, west, south, and north, causing a loss of naturalness to these areas. In the remaining portion of the unit (95 per cent), human imprints are not substantially noticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are restricted in the east, south, north and northwest portions of the unit. Narrow configurations of land have been created by substantially noticeable human imprint and non-Federal land inholding patterns, as well as by unit boundaries that isolate areas outside the bulk of the unit. In the remaining portions of the unit the rugged incised topography and vertical separation between ridge tops and canyon bottoms enhances seclusion and contributes to the outstanding opportunity for solitude.

2. PRIMITVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The landforms, vegetation, and habitat within the unit contribute to outstanding opportunities for diverse recreation. Hiking, backpacking, horseback travel and packing, hunting, winter sports and camping are possible.

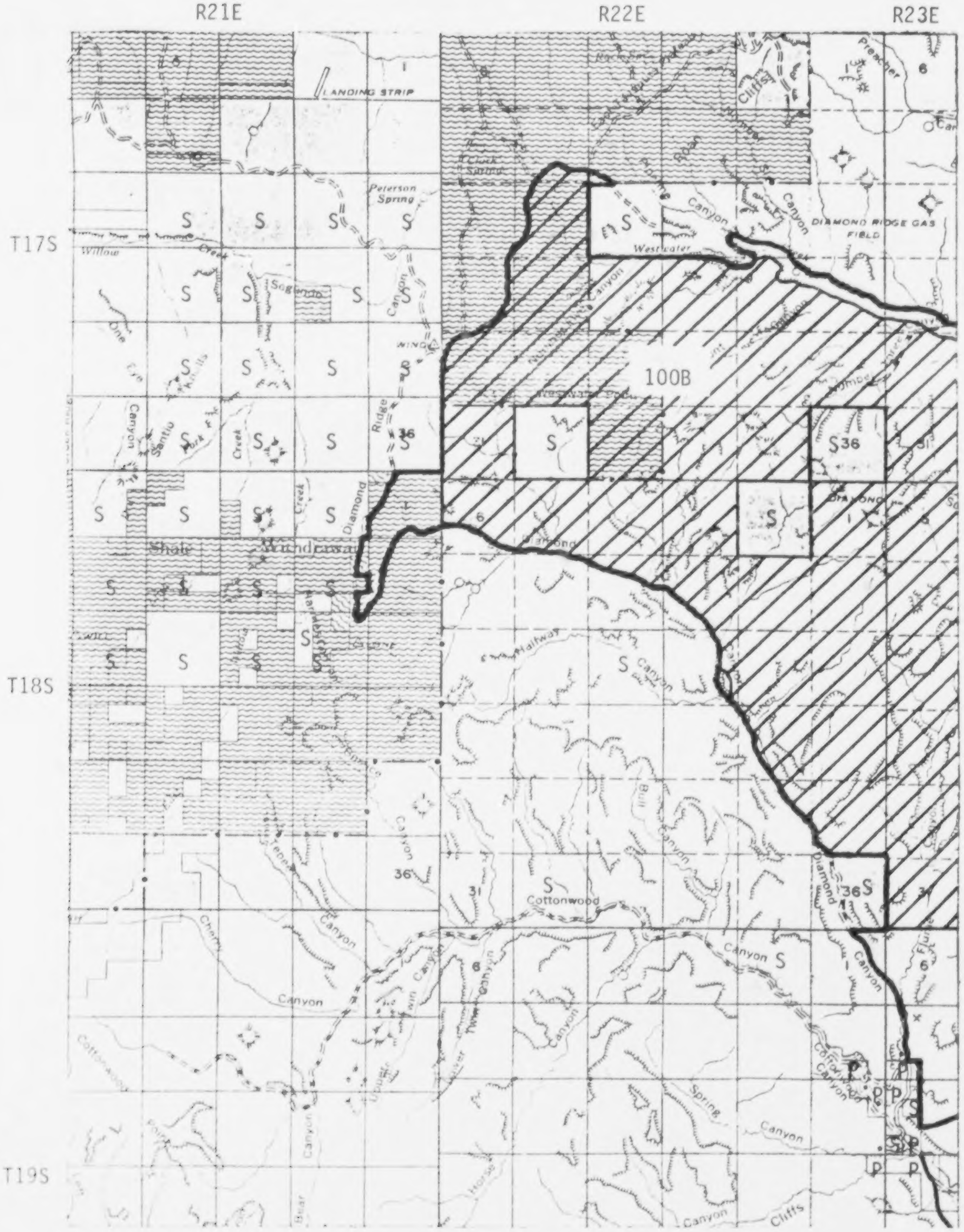
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Archeological supplemental values may be present in the unit. The unit has scenic values as well.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: On this unit 10 general and 13 specific comments were received from 19 individuals, 4 groups and 1 public agency. WSA designation was favored by 8 general and 5 specific. Three comments referred to UT-060-100, of which this is a sub-part.

Several comments supported a 48,000 acre WSA; a map was provided similar to the original proposal. Loss of naturalness was addressed (roads, trails, fences, ponds); one comment stated the unit does not possess outstanding naturalness as it is the same as many other areas of the Book Cliffs. Other respondents noted that imprints are along the unit boundary or are insignificant. One comment referred to 25 wells in UT-060-100, giving T/R locations, but not sections. Two comments stated reclamation was impossible. Several comments mentioned outstanding opportunities for solitude due to topography and vegetation; two that no opportunities were present. A comment mentioned the unit offered little opportunity for primitive recreation; other comments stated opportunities exist (hiking, hunting, fishing, horse packing, photography). Supplemental values mentioned include adjacent state roadless area, ecological, archeological and hunting. Comments regarding energy resource conflicts stated that since the area was unsuited for wilderness it should not become a WSA; that the area was underlain by known and potential mineral and gas reserves, that current development should be "grandfathered" and that exploration imprints would reclaim in time.

4. DECISION: A 48,240 acre Flume Canyon WSA is identified in accordance with the original proposal.

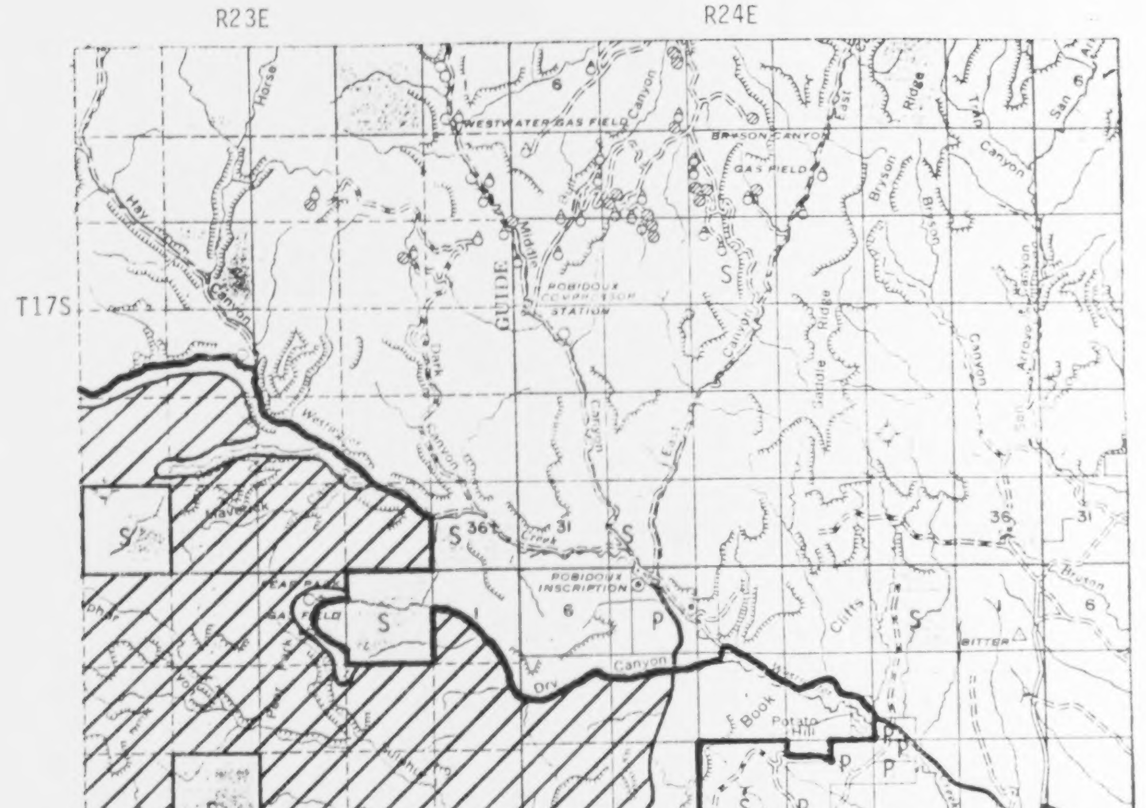
5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Many comments addressing UT-060-100 did not pertain to this unit. Comments regarding a 48,000-acre WSA did not indicate if a change from the proposal was suggested. Comments referring to loss of naturalness and limited reclamation potential did not provide information. A comparison of naturalness with other areas does not address WSA criteria. The comment referring to well locations did not give sufficient information to determine if these were within the proposed WSA or if they had been previously noted. Comments regarding lack of opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation did not provide new information. Uses of adjacent state land are irrelevant to WSA criteria. Hunting is not a supplemental value; it was not clear why this was mentioned. Mineral and energy resource values cannot be considered during the inventory phase, but will be addressed during the study phase. As stated in the IMP guidelines, individual sites will be reviewed and "grandfathered" if appropriate. No new information was provided via public comment to warrant changing the original proposal; however, comments did support the original conclusion.



UT-060-100B - DIAMOND CANYON
(Sheet 1 of 2 - West Half)
FLUME CNAYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80



UT-060-100B - DIAMOND CANYON
(Sheet 2 of 2 - East Half)
FLUME CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO: UT-060-100C | WSA ACREAGE: 62,900

UNIT NAME: COTTONWOOD CANYON | UNIT ACREAGE: 85,240

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is part of the Book Cliffs and Roan Cliffs formations in east-central Utah. It lies in Grand County.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 85,240 acres of BLM administered land; 6,040 acres of State land also lie within the unit boundaries. The unit was originally part of a larger unit (UT-060-100) which was subdivided into three parts. The boundaries roughly follow Sego Canyon, Diamond Ridge, Diamond Canyon, the edge of the Book Cliffs, and State and private land ownership patterns.

B. NATURALNESS: The topography consists of a highly dissected canyon and ridge sytem. Vegetation varies from desert shrubs and pinyon-juniper woodlands to dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Human imprints are primarily associated with oil and gas exploration and development. Two narrow areas have been separated from the bulk of the unit by patterns of permanent imprints. About 95 percent of the unit remains substantially natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Portions of the unit provide outstanding opportunities for solitude due to topography and dense vegetation. Four areas no longer offer outstanding opportunities due to their sizes and land ownership patterns. An area around Sagers Canyon has been isolated by permanent human imprint patterns and two sections of state land. This area lacks effective topographic and vegetative screening and thus does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The landforms, vegetation and habitats of the unit contribute to diverse opportunities for recreation. Challenging hiking, backpacking, horseback travel and packing, hunting, winter sports and camping are possibilities. Overall opportunities are outstanding.

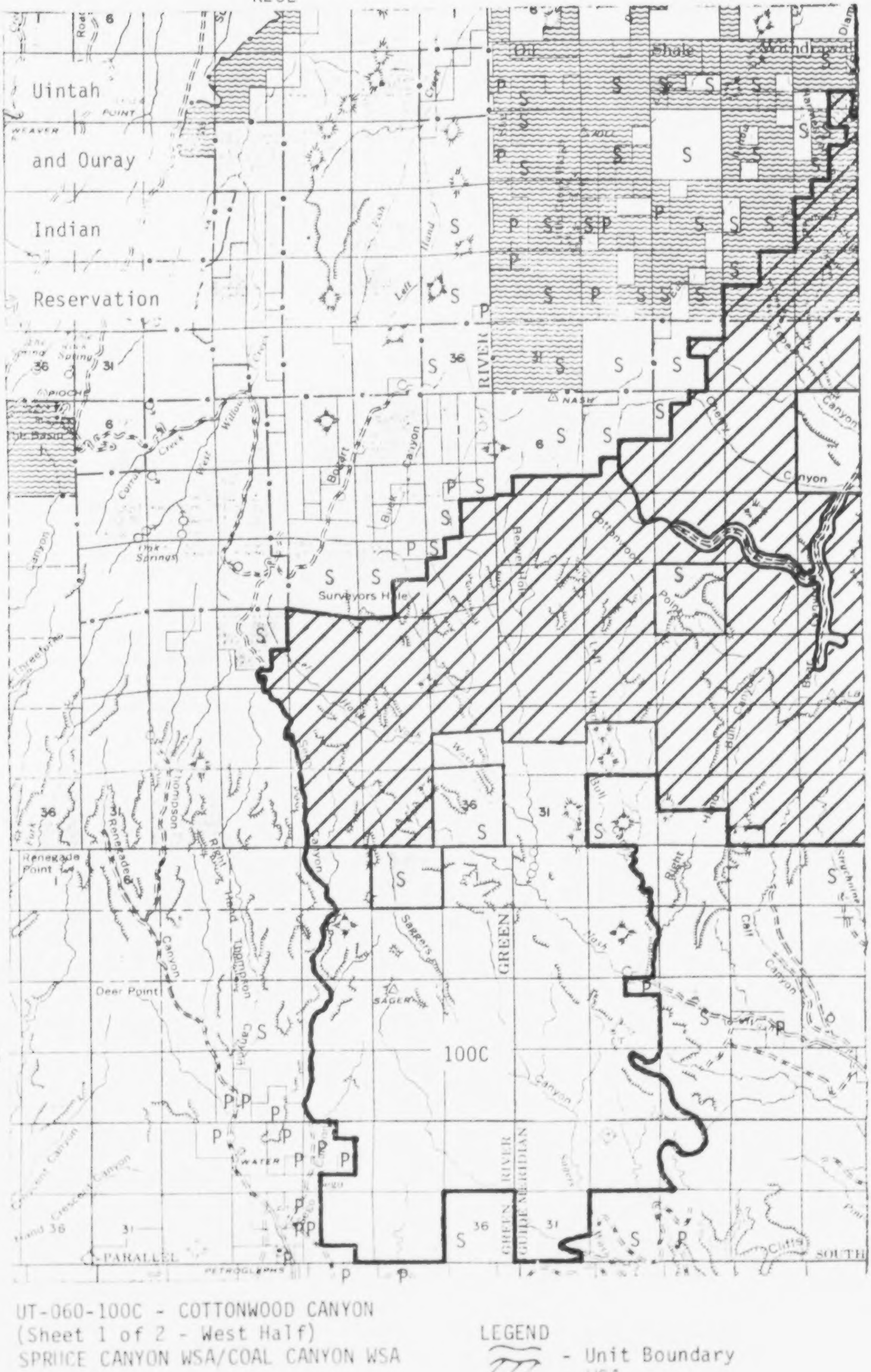
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit exhibits supplemental scenic, geologic, ecologic, archaeologic, and possibly historic values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: This unit received 25 comments (14 specific) from 22 individuals, 4 groups and 1 agency. Of these, 17 supported a WSA; 1 was neutral. Three comments addressed UT-060-100 of which this unit is a subpart.

Several comments supported a 63,000 acre WSA; others concurred with the original proposal (62,900 acres). A map of a large WSA was submitted omitting only the Nash Wash area; the comment stated the Sagers Canyon area (17,000 acres) was incorrectly dropped. One comment stated the Sagers Canyon area should become a WSA combined with UT-60-068A and 068B. One comment stated the entire unit should become a WSA instead of arbitrarily eliminating flat desert areas. The "way" up Cottonwood Canyon was claimed both to be a road and to be substantially unnoticeable. Comments claimed a general loss of naturalness and impossibility of reclamation, imprints in Nash and Cisco Washes and nine wells in the general area were noted. Others felt the unit is substantially natural. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were rated outstanding by some, negligible by others. One comment noted opportunities were present but not outstanding due to lack of diversity. Supplemental ecologic, geologic, archeologic, historic and scenic values were noted. Adjacency to a state roadless area was pointed out as a plus for WSA status; similarity to the entire Book Cliffs region was mentioned as a negative factor. Conflicts with energy development were pointed out, including "grandfathered" uses. Two comments suggested leaving the area for multiple use.

4. DECISION: The original proposal of a 62,900 acre WSA has been modified to divide the WSA along Cottonwood Canyon. Spruce Canyon WSA, 19,580 acres, lies north of the canyon; Coal Canyon WSA, 43,320 acres, lies south with a road up Bear Canyon cherry stemmed.

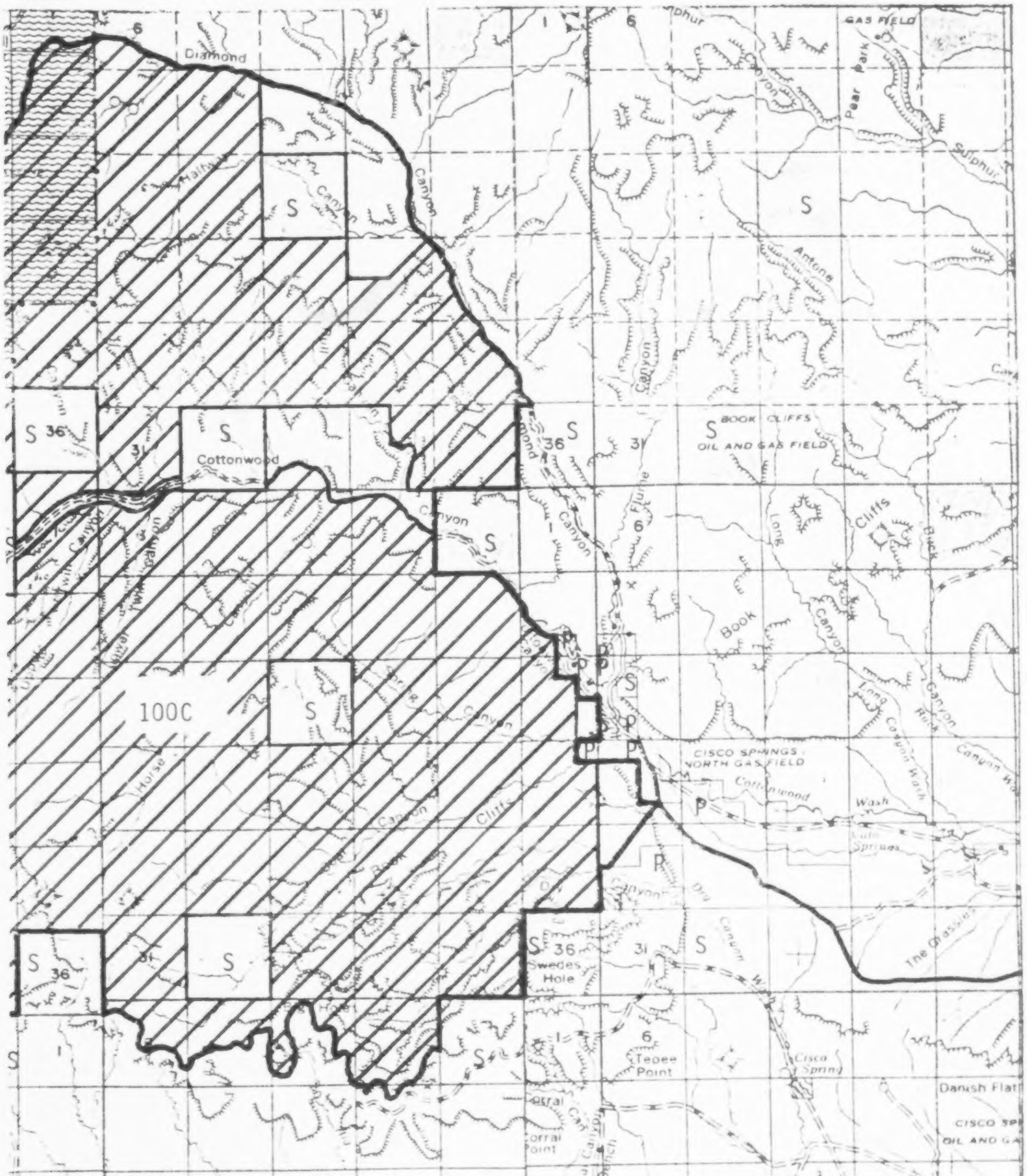
5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: A field check of Cottonwood Canyon verified a road in the canyon bottom. This comes within a mile of the western unit border creating a logical split. Although the road occasionally washes out, it is periodically maintained; the same holds true for a road up Bear Canyon. A field check of the southern part of the unit indicates the "way" up Sagers Canyon does not extend into the unit and the structure was mislocated. The map provided was not accompanied by a rationale for changes other than the Sagers Canyon area; acreages given (63,000 acres plus 17,000 acres) did not seem to fit the areas depicted. The Sagers Canyon area was considered separately from the bulk of the unit due to configuration (OAD 78-61, Change 3). A field check confirmed that vegetational and topographic screening are not as pronounced as in other areas of the unit; hence opportunities for solitude would not be outstanding. Sagers Canyon is separated from units UT-060-068A and 068B by a state highway (U-94); the units cannot be combined. The comment alleging arbitrary elimination of flat desert portions of the unit seems misdirected since the unit does not contain this type of area. Other intrusions mentioned are either out of the unit or respondents provide insufficient information to field check locations. Comments regarding lack of opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation were not site specific; observations and other comments do not indicate a lack of recreational diversity. Adjacent land uses are irrelevant; it was not clear why similarity of the unit to other areas would affect WSA criteria. Conflicts with energy development will be addressed during the study phase; legitimate "grandfathered" uses are allowed in a WSA. Wilderness is defined as a facet of multiple use.



UT-060-100C - COTTONWOOD CANYON
(Sheet 1 of 2 - West Half)
SPRUCE CANYON WSA/COAL CANYON WSA

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands



UT-060-100C - COTTONWOOD CANYON
(Sheet 2 of 2 - East Half)
SPRUCE CANYON WSA/COAL CANYON WSA

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

UNIT NO.: UT-060-116/UT-060-117/CO-070-113A | WSA ACREAGE: 54,290 / 5,100 Utah

UNIT NAME: WRIGLEY MESA/JONES CANYON / BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST | UNIT ACREAGE: 54,290

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: These three contiguous units form one intensive inventory unit which straddles the Utah-Colorado State line. The unit lies just south of the Colorado River about 15 miles west of Grand Junction, Colorado, in Grand County, Utah and Mesa County, Colorado. It is under study by the Grand Junction, Colorado District Office of the BLM.

The unit is located on the northeast edge of the Uncompahgre Plateau with the Colorado River lying just within parts of the northern edge of the unit. It is bounded on the north by non-Federal land and roads along the Colorado River; on the east by a road onto Colorado Ridge; on the south generally by non-Federal land; and on the west by a road above Jones Canyon. A six-mile road has been excluded from the unit in the south-eastern section.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit contains 54,290 acres. No State or private land falls within unit boundaries. The adjusted Colorado initial inventory unit contains 49,190 acres. Utah units UT-060-116 and UT-060-117 were found not to be separated; they contain 2,700 and 2,400 acres respectively, for a total of 5,100 acres within Utah.

B. NATURALNESS: Minimal imprints occur on mesa tops and on the flats in the northwest corner along the Colorado River. No imprints occur within the canyon systems. The unit remains substantially natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The numerous deep canyon systems offer topographic screening, both horizontially and vertically. The mesa tops offer vegetative screening. Additionally, the unit's large size and broad configuration enhance opportunities for solitude that may be present.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are present within the unit. Landscape variety, numerous focal features, numbers of wildlife and game species, and the inclusion of the Colorado River within portions of the unit provide diverse recreational opportunities. The unit provides exceptional opportunities for hiking and backpacking.

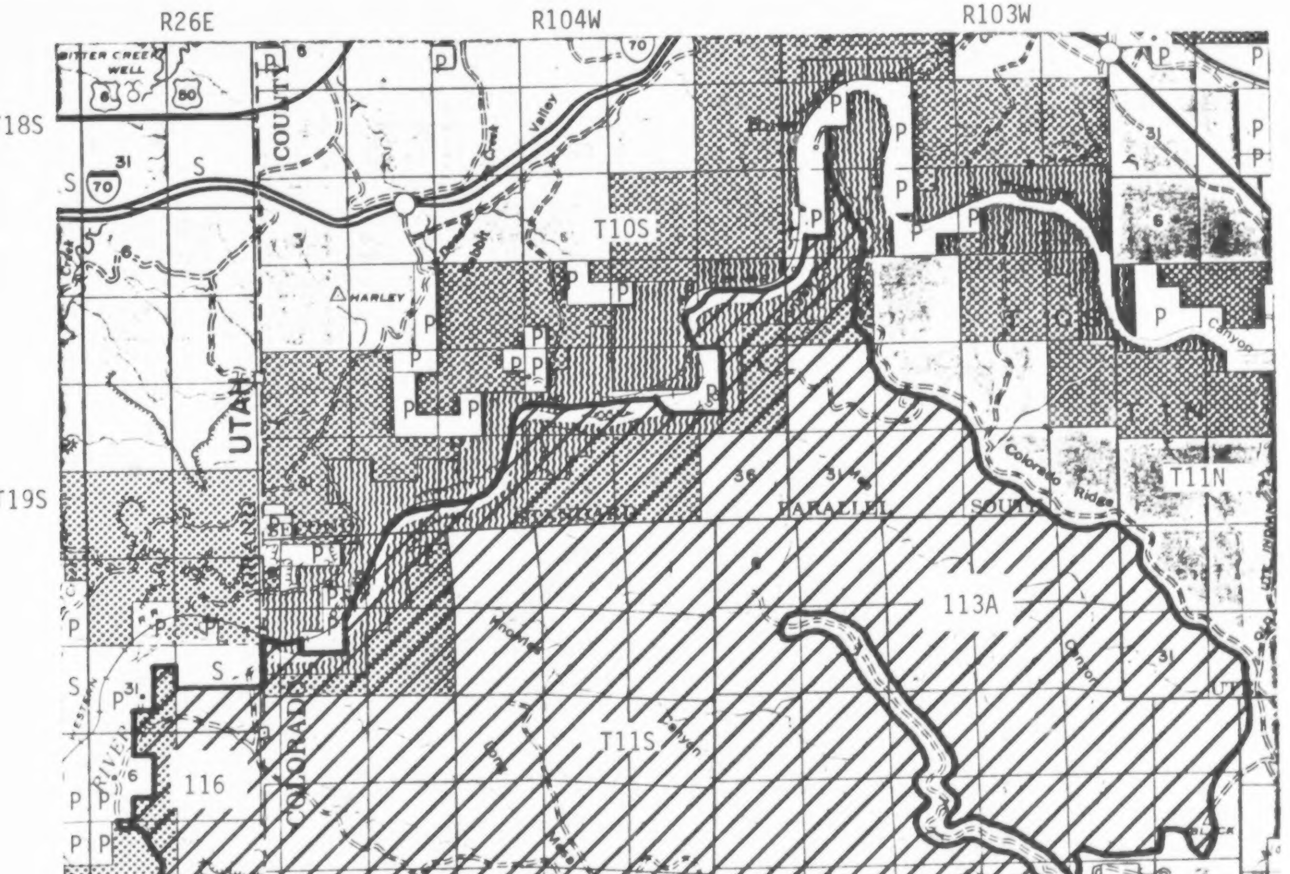
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains geologic, scenic, and ecological values; archeologic values may be present. Three species of threatened or endangered fish and one rare butterfly are known to inhabit the area.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Colorado received 27 comments and 2 newsletters from 22 individuals, 3 groups, 3 companies and 1 public agency; Utah received 6 comments from 5 individuals and 2 groups. Of the total, 31 were specific; 19 specific, 4 general comments, and the newsletters supported WSA designation.

The majority of Colorado respondents referred both to this unit and CO-070-113, often suggesting the dividing road be closed and the units joined. Comments generally agreed with determination of naturalness (13); 5 comments referenced loss of naturalness due to roads, fences, stock ponds, etc., but did not give locations. Two referenced the effect of present grazing and mining claims. Reclamation of impacts was judged impossible by 3; possible by natural forces by another. Solitude was mentioned by 8 comments; 4 rated opportunities as outstanding based on site-specific information; 1 stated no opportunities present. One commented existing air and river travel diminished opportunities; 1 that proximity to towns enhanced them. Several remarked the area is seldom-used and inaccessible. Many pointed out specific outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation (backpacking, camping, rafting, hunting, fishing, photography, sightseeing). Many commented on supplemental values (ecologic, scenic, geologic, archeologic); some as a prime reason for WSA status. Two comments stated that WSA designation would make the area inaccessible; another that it would receive greater use. One comment pointed out existing withdrawals; 2 mentioned mineral potential.

4. DECISION: The combined Utah and Colorado unit shall become the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA as originally proposed, containing 54,290 acres.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Comments referencing loss of naturalness were not location-specific and did not provide new information. Specific comments regarding opportunities for solitude, based on land forms supported the original proposal. The comment refuting opportunities for solitude did not provide information to back up the claim. Existing use patterns and features outside the unit are not considered for WSA criteria. Comments supporting outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation were also based on specific information. Supplemental values do not pertain to primary criteria, and while useful information, cannot be used as a sole rationale for determination of WSA suitability. Comments regarding future accessibility of a WSA were personal opinion and did not address primary criteria. BLM and other agency withdrawals will be addressed during the wilderness study process, not the inventory process, as will mineral potential. In summary, comments received did not provide new information but tended to reinforce the original WSA proposal.



UT-060-116/117 - CO-070-113A - WRIGLEY MESA/JONES CANYON/BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST
BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-118 WSA ACREAGE: 30,800

UNIT NAME: WEST WATER CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 37,640

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in Grand County, Utah adjacent to the Colorado State line about 4 1/2 miles east of Cisco, Utah. The unit includes Westwater Canyon of the Colorado River, the canyon of the Little Dolores River, Star and Marble Canyons, and Snyder Mesa.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 37,640 acres of BLM administered land. An additional 1,760 acres of State land lie within the unit boundaries. The unit boundaries follow Coates Creek Road, Pumphouse Road, the Colorado State line and private and State land ownership patterns.

B. NATURALNESS: About 1,940 acres are no longer substantially natural in character. An area of 4,570 acres has been set off from the bulk of the unit by patterns of human imprints. Impacts to the remainder of the unit are widely dispersed and not substantially noticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The size and shape of the unit are generally conducive to outstanding opportunities for solitude. The topographic relief provided by steep and meandering canyons, tall buttes, and mesas contribute to outstanding opportunities for solitude. The screening effect of topography is enhanced by the vegetation patterns in the pinyon-juniper woodlands and in the canyon bottoms. The 4,570 acre parcel which has been isolated from the bulk of the unit by human imprints lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its size, configuration and lack of screening potential. Three parcels totalling 330 acres bordered by state or private land extend outside the bulk of the unit and also lack outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Outstanding opportunities exist for river recreation, hiking, rock scrambling and camping. Opportunities for other activities such as horseback travel and hunting, while present, are probably less than outstanding, but add to diversity.

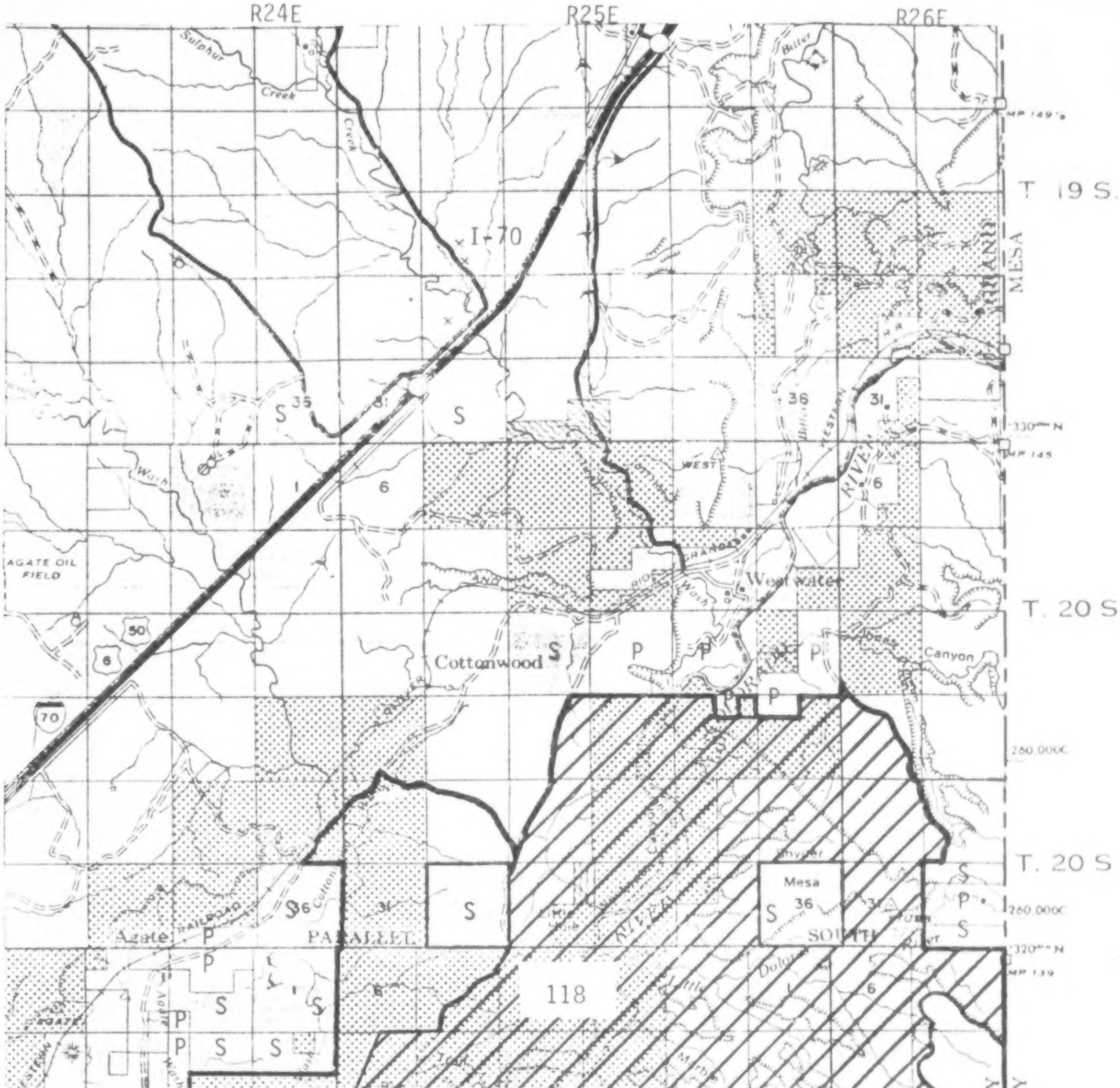
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains historical, geological and ecological supplemental values. Historically the area was used by prospectors, miners, explorers, outlaws and rivermen. Geologically the Precambrian schist of Upper Westwater Canyon is the oldest exposed rock in Utah. The unit is also a transplant area for bighorn sheep. The Colorado River provides a habitat for four proposed or listed threatened or endangered species of fish.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Twenty-four comments were received from 23 individuals, 3 groups and 1 government agency; 12 were specific. All but 2 individuals and 1 group supported WSA status.

A 31,000 acre WSA was supported by 9 general and 2 specific comments without specifying boundaries; 1 specific comment concurred with the original 30,800 acre proposal. Ten comments addressed naturalness; 3 stated that there were imprints within the unit (roads, fences, stock ponds, campsites, jeep and bike trails, litter), 2 of these stated these imprints would be impossible to reclaim. One comment stated periphery encroachments had been eliminated; 6 generally that the proposed WSA remained natural. Site specific comments supported outstanding opportunities for solitude; 4 generally concurred. Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation were addressed by 7 comments (primarily relating to river rafting, but also hiking); 1 pointed out heavy current seasonal use affects solitude. One stated WSA status would adversely affect hunting. Two comments stated there were no opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation. Supplemental geologic, scenic, ecologic and historic values were pointed out. Comments were also made on the wild and scenic river study, mineral and oil potential, and the presence of State school sections within the unit.

4. DECISION: A 30,800 acre Westwater Canyon WSA shall be identified in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Comments supporting a 31,000 acre WSA did not give boundary information. Comments regarding loss of naturalness did not reference the location of imprints. Statements referring to impossibility of reclamation were based on widespread permanent imprints (roads) which were not substantiated. Site specific information supporting outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation supported the original proposal; comments regarding lack of opportunities were unsubstantiated. Current use of the area cannot be considered in accordance with OAD 78-61 Change 3. The wild and scenic river study is irrelevant to wilderness inventory but would be addressed during wilderness study; the same is true for minerals potential. State school sections within unit boundaries have already been noted; State land was not inventoried for wilderness potential and is not included in either the unit or the WSA. Public comment did not provide new information warranting a change in the original proposal, although significant comments were received supporting the proposal.



UT-060-118
WESTWATER CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO: UT-060-119 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: BIG TRIANGLE UNIT ACREAGE: 11,260

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in the Dolores Triangle between the Colorado and Dolores Rivers 1½ miles west of the Utah-Colorado state line in Grand County. The area consists of plateaus and rolling terrain cut by small canyons running to the rivers.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit, 11,260 acres of BLM-administered land, meets size requirements. Within the unit boundaries lie an additional 1,280 acres of state land (two 640 acre sections).

B. NATURALNESS: The vegetation of the unit is low and sparse, consisting of sagebrush, blackbrush and Indian rice grass. Vegetation becomes somewhat denser in the canyon bottoms. Approximately 60% of the unit has lost natural characteristics due to human imprints in the eastern and western portions of the unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The midsection of the unit is comprised of open flats and rolling hills, surrounded by 3 canyons. The canyons tend to be shallow and wide with gradually sloping walls. Vegetative screening is limited to a few stands of pinyon-juniper woodlands. Neither topography nor vegetation provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The landforms and vegetation of the unit, having limited variety, do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. No focal features exist to attract hikers; the terrain is not challenging and camping places are limited. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not found to be outstanding.

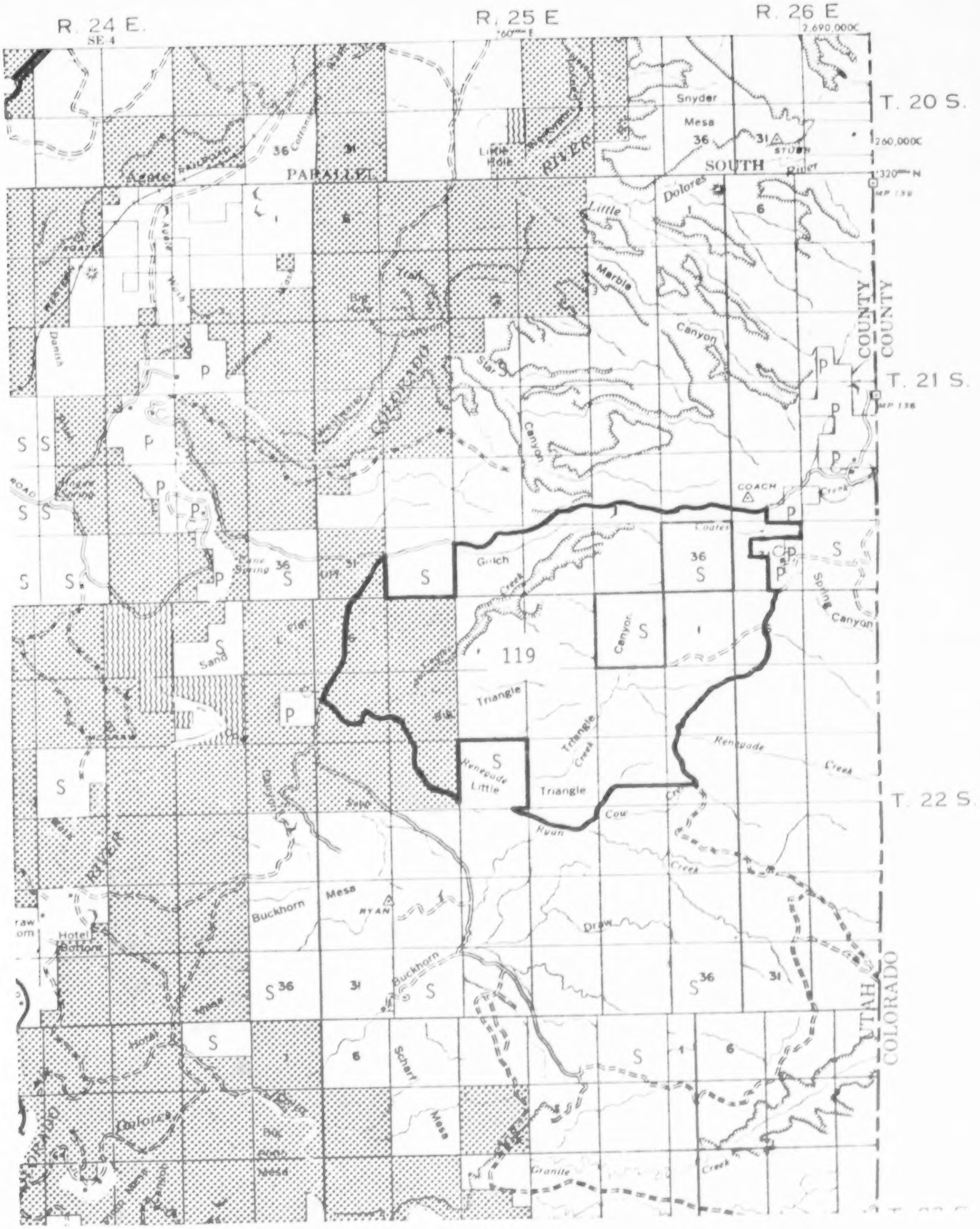
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None noted.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments were received, 2 general and 2 specific; 1 specific comment supported WSA identification.Respondents included 3 individuals and 1 group.

One general comment supported the original recommendation as written. Two comments addressed naturalness; 1 that the general area remained natural, 1 referring to roads, ponds, and fencing without giving locations. One comment stated that there were outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation (rafting); one that there were no opportunities for either. One mentioned minerals, oil, and "recreation" as supplemental values.

4. DECISION: The unit shall be dropped from further consideration, as originally proposed.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Comments on naturalness were not site-specific and did not affect the original conclusion. Comments on opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation tended to be opinions not supported by site related data. Rafting is not possible within this unit due to lack of perennial streams. Mineral values are not considered during the inventory phase; recreation is a primary criteria not supplemental value. Comments did not provide new information to warrant changing the original proposal.



UT-060-119 - BIG TRIANGLE

LEGEND

- Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-120/CO-070-132B WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: RENEGADE POINT/RENEGADE CREEK UNIT ACREAGE: 12,990

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit straddles the Utah-Colorado State line about 30 miles southwest of Grand Junction, Colorado. It lies in Grand County, Utah, and Mesa County, Colorado about midway between the Colorado and Dolores Rivers. This unit is under study by the Grand Junction, Colorado, District Office of the BLM.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit contains 12,990 acres. No State or private land lies within unit boundaries. The Colorado portion contains 6,720 acres, the Utah portion 6,270 acres. The Colorado inventory unit was originally part of a larger unit, CO-070-132A.

B. NATURALNESS: The topography of the unit consists of mesas and high slopes cut by creeks. Human imprints in the unit are minimal and are associated with cattle operations. A barite mine has been excluded from the unit. The unit appears generally natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The unit's narrow configuration tends to limit opprotunities for solitude. The steep open slopes and the limited extent of the creek bottoms within the unit provide limited topographic screening. The scattered growth of pinyon-juniper with mountain shrubs in the higher elevations does not provide vegetative screening.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The configuration of the unit, and the terrain restricts access within the eastern and southern parts of the unit. The western portion contains open slopes lacking recreational challenge and does not present outstanding opportunities. Lack of focal features further limits recreational possibilities. The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains geologic values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Colorado received 14 comments (4 general and 10 specific) and one newsletter from 8 individuals and 6 groups; Utah received 3 comments (2 general and 1 specific) from 2 individuals and 1 group and a copy of a Colorado comment. The majority of comments were in favor of WSA designation (4 general, 8 specific). One was neutral.

Most comments addressed supplemental ecologic, scenic, or geologic values. Three comments addressed naturalness: one stated the unit was essentially natural; two that the unit had range improvements (fence, abandoned roads, stock ponds, ditch). Three comments stated the general area provided outstanding opportunities for solitude; these were unsubstantiated. Four stated outstanding opportunities were present for primitive recreation (birdwatching, rafting). One stated opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were less than outstanding due to vegetative cover and topography; one mentioned a nearby road.

4. DECISION: The original proposal shall be implemented. The unit will not be identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Supplemental values are not primary criteria for determining WSA suitability and do not affect the proposal. Comments regarding naturalness listed impacts but did not locate them; outcome of decision was not affected. Statements supporting outstanding opportunities for solitude were not substantiated by site-specific information. Statements supporting outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation were vague, pertaining to the general area (rafting is not possible within the unit) or were contingent solely on supplemental values. Comments regarding features outside the unit (the nearby main road) cannot be considered. Information provided was not sufficient to change the original recommendation.

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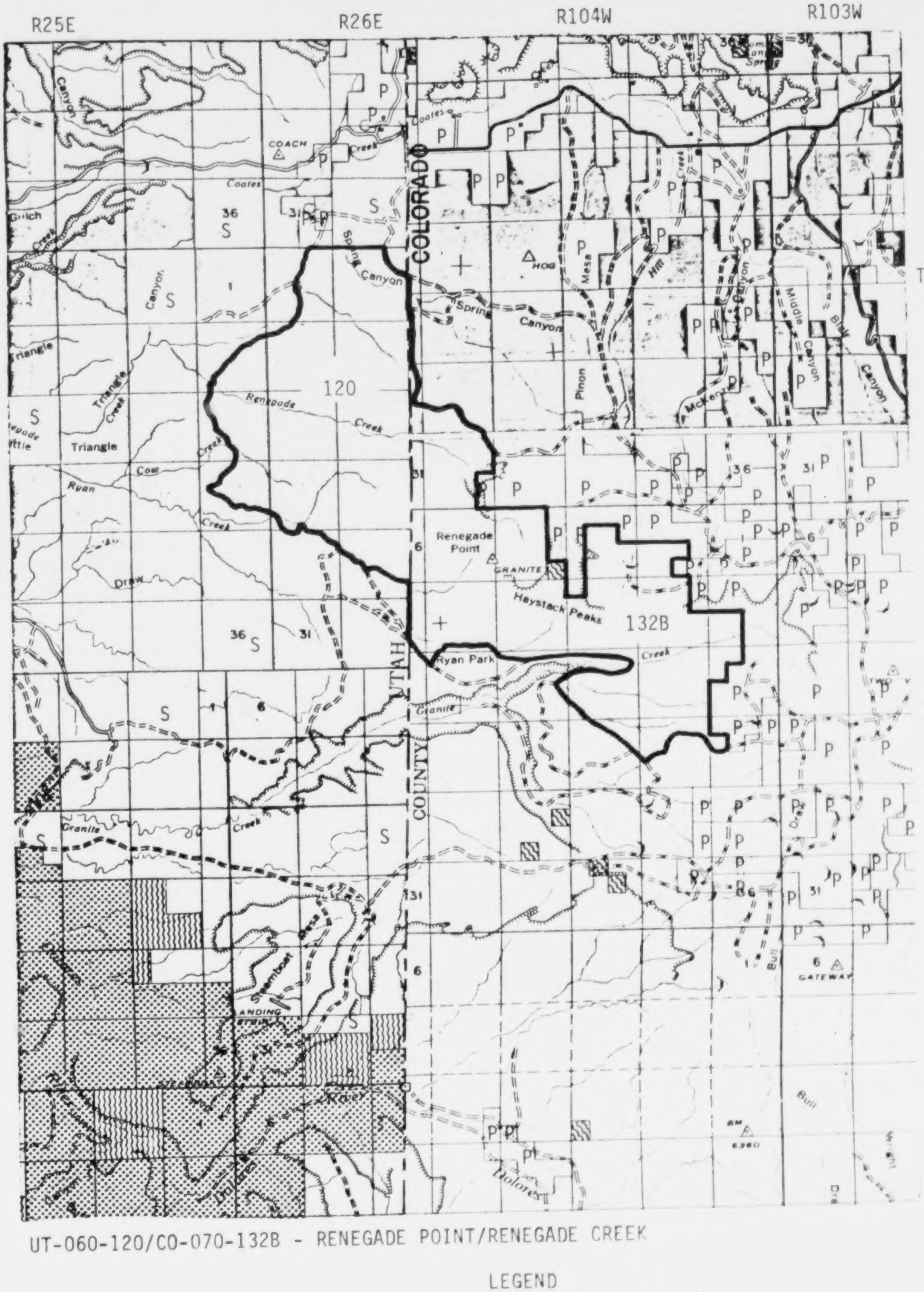


UT-060-120/CO-070-132B - RENEGADE POINT/RENEGADE CREEK

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-122/CO-070-132A WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: GRANITE CREEK UNIT ACREAGE: 7,920

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in both Grand County, Utah and Mesa County, Colorado. It is administered jointly by BLM's Moab District (Utah) and Grand Junction District (Colorado). It is approximately 30 miles northeast of Moab, Utah and 33 miles southwest of Grand Junction, Colorado. The boundaries of the unit are comprised of a combination of roads and non-Federal land ownership boundaries, creating an area that averages approximately 9 miles long by 2 miles wide on an east-west axis.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit contains 7,920 acres of BLM administered land; 4,800 acres in Utah and 3,120 acres in Colorado. No state or private land is located inside the unit boundaries. Originally, the combined unit was much larger. Road locations caused the original unit to be subdivided into two combined intensive inventory units (this one and UT-060-120/CO-070-132B) and a number of undersized areas that were dropped from further consideration.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit appears to be generally natural. Localized imprints affect two small parts of the unit. These consist of an old homestead and associated improvements located in the north-central part of the unit and a short length of way located in the southwest portion of the unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its physical characteristics. These include a narrow configuration and a general lack of topographic and vegetative screening. The areas offering opportunities for solitude, located in small parts of the mesa uplands and the western end of Granite Canyon, either do not have sufficient natural screening or are too limited in size to offer opportunities that are outstanding in quality.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding in the unit. Recreational opportunities center around hiking, backpacking, hunting and fishing, and these would be constrained by the narrow configuration of the unit. Hiking and backpacking opportunities would be limited throughout the unit because of the lack of focal features and challenge, and the proximity to unit boundaries. Configuration and terrain similarly limit hunting. The western end of Granite creek was once stocked with trout, but populations are limited.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The presence of a marginal trout fishery, the presence of raptors, and the presence of scenic values are all considered supplemental values. In addition, historical values in the form of an old homestead are present.

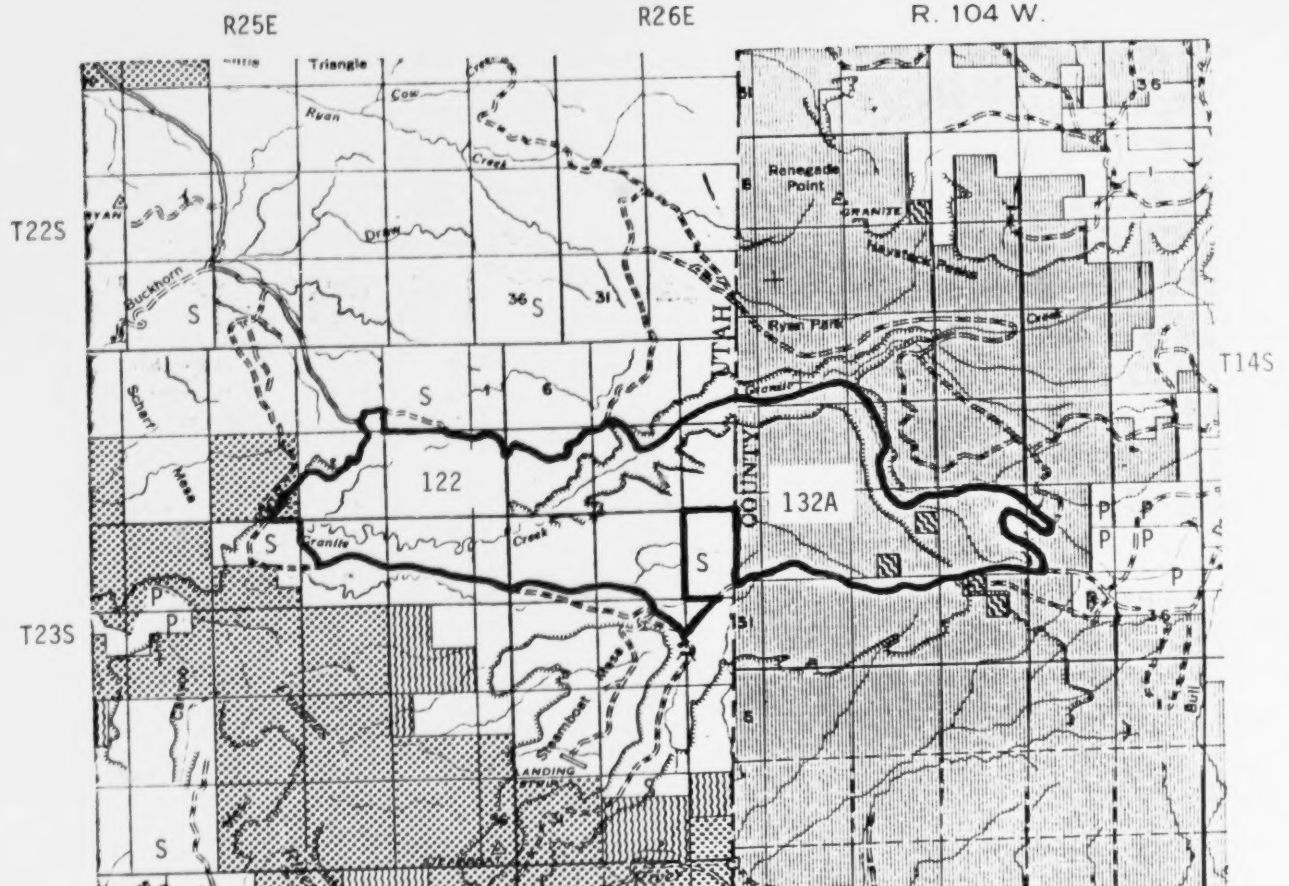
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Most comments were received in Colorado: 11 specific, 23 general (including 8 form letters), and 1 newsletter from 18 individuals and 5 groups. All supported WSA designation. Utah received 2 specific and 2 general from 3 individuals (1 also wrote to Colorado) and 1 group; also 1 group sent a duplicate of a Colorado comment, and 1 comment referencing this. One specific comment supported WSA identification; the other 3 did not.

The majority pointed out raptor (bald eagle) habitat, scenic, historic, ecologic, or geologic values. Many comments took issue with conclusions on solitude and primitive recreation; many stated the area is seldom used. With two exceptions, expressions of solitude opportunities were not supported. Several references were made to recreational opportunities, such as backpacking, hiking, birdwatching, photography or sight-seeing. No challenges were made regarding unit size or configuration. One comment questioned the validity of the unit boundary road in the canyon, stating it was impassable prior to 1978. One comment made reference to loss of naturalness due to roads, bike trails, fences, ponds, and claim markers, but did not provide specific locations.

4. DECISION: The unit shall be dropped from WSA consideration, in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Scenic, historic, ecologic, or geologic features are supplemental values; comments addressing these do not affect the primary criteria. Existing use patterns within the unit or vistas from the unit are not relevant as per OAD 78-61, Change 3. Statements regarding solitude did not offer information to support these conclusions. Two comments did address specific opportunities within the unit but information presented had been previously considered. Comments regarding primitive recreation were highly dependent on supplemental values. No new information was presented regarding challenge or breadth of opportunities. Information on loss of naturalness is unsupported.

Information on the boundary road did not conclusively state that the road was not in existence prior to 1978; even if valid, this would only enlarge the north part of the unit to its original initial inventory boundary. The unit does combine valuable scenic and ecologic features; however, the original conclusion that the unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation is unchanged.



UT-060-122 - CO-070-132A - GRANITE CANYON/GRANITE CREEK

LEGEND
~ - Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-131A WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: NORTH LOST SPRING CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 5,200

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is adjacent to Arches National Park (NP), north of Moab in central Grand County. It is bordered by the Yellow Cat road on the north, the park on the west, and a pipeline right-of-way on the south.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit contains 5,200 acres of BLM administered land. No State or private land lies within unit boundaries. It was originally part of a larger unit, UT-060-131, which was split by the pipeline right-of-way. It is adjacent to the Arches NP proposed Devil's Garden wilderness area (18,069 acres).

B. NATURALNESS: Human imprints are substantially noticeable throughout the unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Landforms in the unit consist of open flats dissected by two shallow canyons. Topographic and vegetative screening is limited. The size of the unit, when taken in conjunction with the adjoining NP wilderness proposal, does provide a feeling of vastness; however, opportunities for solitude are not found to be outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The landforms and vegetation of the unit do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. No focal features exist to attract hikers; the terrain is neither especially scenic nor challenging. Some hunting could probably occur within the unit, but wildlife populations are typical of the area. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not found to be outstanding.

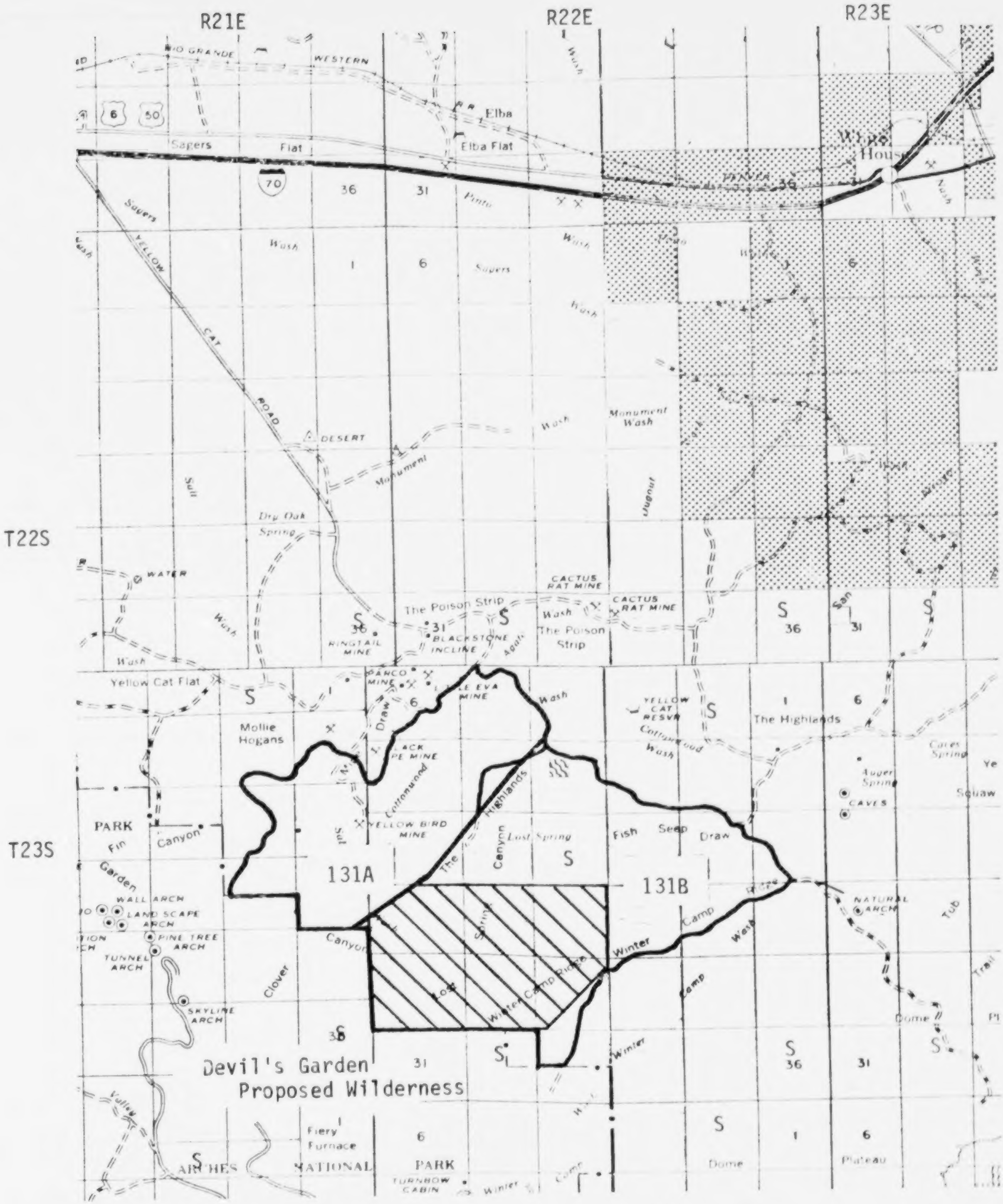
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None noted.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments were received from 3 individuals and 1 group; 2 general and 1 specific supported the original proposal; 1 supported WSA status. In addition an interagency comment supported WSA status.

One comment referenced loss of naturalness (roads, fences, ponds, ORV trails) and impossibility of reclamation, no opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, and listed minerals, recreation, and camping as supplemental values. One comment supporting WSA status stated size and/or topography provided solitude; an inter-agency comment stated portions of the unit offer prime opportunities for recreation and solitude when taken in conjunction with the NP proposal. Current backpacking use was noted. The comment also suggested adding adjacent areas to a WSA.

4. DECISION: The original proposal to drop the unit from further study will be implemented.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Camping and recreation are not supplemental values but appear to refer to existing use. Mineral values are to be addressed during the study phase, not the inventory phase. The comment on size and topography did not clearly relate these to outstanding opportunities for solitude. Based on the comment regarding the NP proposal a field check was made of the area adjacent to Arches NP; it was found that the area had a greater loss of naturalness than originally thought (12 additional miles of ways, trails and seisemograph lines). Areas mentioned adjacent to the unit were dropped during the initial inventory. No part of the unit qualifies for WSA status either on its own or in conjunction with the NP proposal due to loss of naturalness throughout.



UT-060-131A - NORTH LOST SPRING CANYON
UT-060-131B - SOUTH LOST SPRING CANYON
LOST SPRING CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
- National Park Boundary
S - State Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-131B WSA ACREAGE: 3,880

UNIT NAME: SOUTH LOST SPRING CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 8,420

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is adjacent to Arches National Park (NP), north of Moab in central Grand County. It is bordered by the park on the southwest, a pipeline right-of-way on the northwest, and Yellow Cat road on the north.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit contains 8,420 acres administered by the BLM; an additional 640-acre tract of State land lies within unit boundaries. The unit is adjacent to the Devil's Garden wilderness proposal of Arches NP, which includes 18,069 acres. This unit was originally part of a larger unit, UT-060-131, which was split by the pipeline right-of-way.

B. NATURALNESS: Approximately 50 of the unit has been impacted by ranching operations and seismic work. The main canyon system of Lost Spring Canyon and Salt Wash remain relatively free of imprints.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The canyons within the unit provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because of topographic screening. Rounded domes and spires of sandstone are also present, providing additional screening potential. Vegetative screening is limited.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit provides outstanding opportunities for hiking and related activities. This is especially apparent near the junction of Salt Wash and Lost Spring Canyon.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES The unit has scenic values similar to those found in Arches NP around the Delicate Arch.

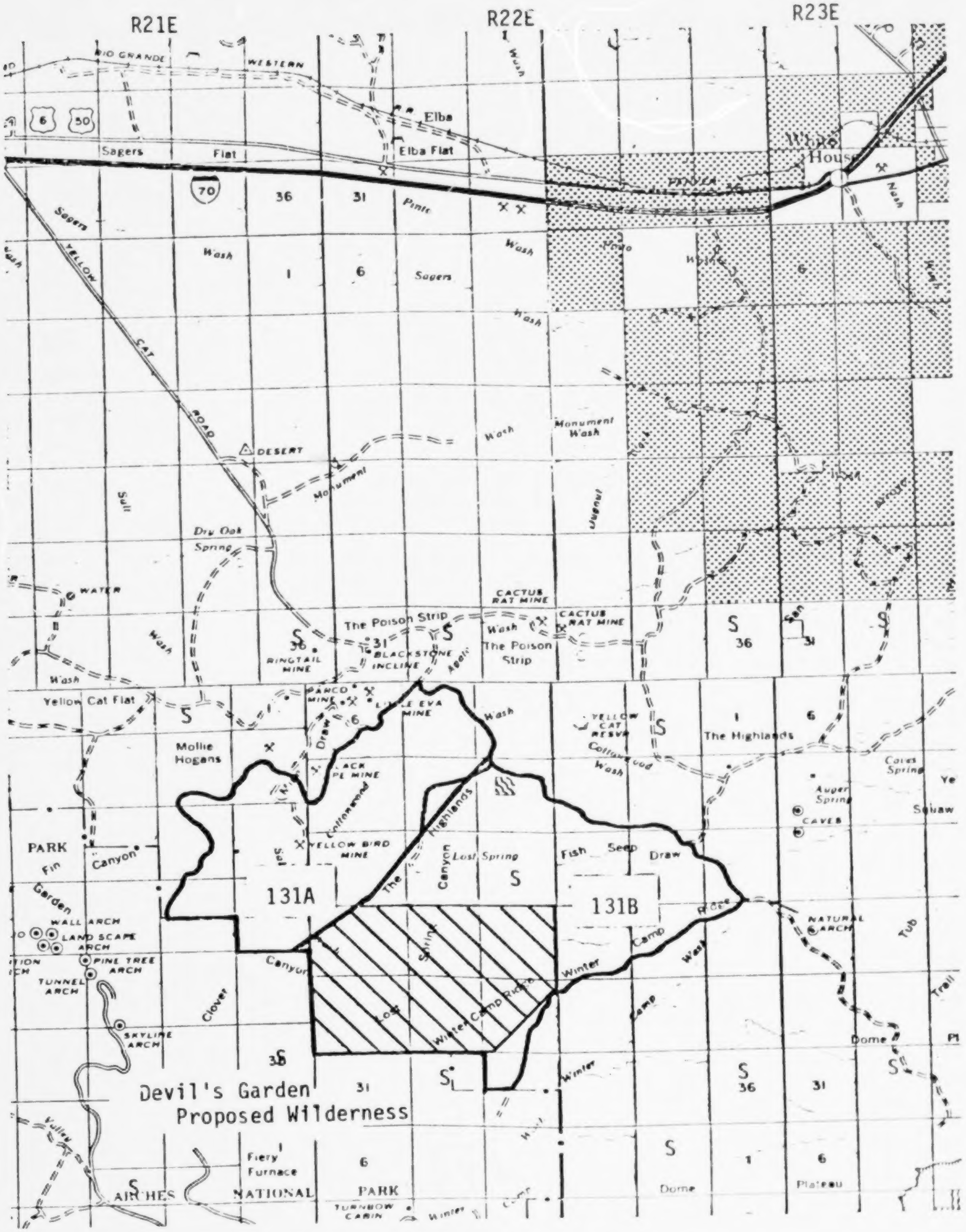
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Nine comments were received from 7 individuals, 2 groups and 1 government agency. Of the general comments one favored WSA designation, the other two did not. Three specific comments were in favor of WSA status, the other two were not. In addition, an inter-agency comment was received favoring the original proposal.

Comments mentioned the presence of naturalness and opportunities for solitude. Abundance of wildlife and scenic geologic formations were listed as supplemental values. Evidence of cattle grazing was mentioned. Loss of naturalness due to seismograph lines and roads was not supported by specific locations.

One comment requested that the unit be excluded due to its adjacency to Arches NP. Substantial human imprints was cited as the reason for the impossibility of reclamation. Biking, jeeping, and minerals were listed as supplemental values.

4. DECISION: A 3,880 acre WSA, Lost Spring Canyon, is identified as stated in the original proposed decision.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Comments regarding loss of naturalness were general in nature and did not provide any new site-specific information. The human imprints mentioned were mostly of the type already identified and exlcuded from the proposed WSA. Biking and jeeping are present uses, not supplemental values. Cattle grazing may be a permitted use inside both WSA's and wilderness areas. The unit's adjacency to Arches NP does require that the NPS wilderness proposal be recognized, but is not a reason for deleting the WSA. No new information was provided that would require changing the original proposal.



UT-060-131A - NORTH LOST SPRING CANYON
UT-060-131B - SOUTH LOST SPRING CANYON

LEGEND

- Unit Boundary
- WSA
- National Park Boundary
- S - State Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO: UT-060-137 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: MARY JANE CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 8,530

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies on the northeast flank of the LaSal Mountains in southeastern Grand County, Utah, about 14 miles east-northeast of Moab. The unit consists of a large mesa (Adobe Mesa) and Mary Jane Canyon to the north. These are oriented along a northwest to southeast axis, with a small part of Fisher Mesa (the other side of the canyon) also in the unit. The unit contains almost equal parts of flat mesa top, cliff face and talus slopes dropping from the mesas, and wide, open canyon floor.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 8,530 acres of BLM administered land.

B. NATURALNESS: About 90 percent of the unit appears natural. Human imprints consist of a road, seismograph lines, a travelled way, and 2 stock reservoirs. These affect about 850 acres on Adobe Mesa, and 100 acres have been chained on Fisher Mesa (the entire part of the mesa within this unit).

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Topographic screening is very limited in this unit, and vegetative screening is good in less than 10% of the unit. Opportunities for solitude are not outstanding in this unit due to their limited extent.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Opportunities for recreation exist in this unit, but are not found to be outstanding. Terrain is mostly flat with climbing and bouldering opportunities along the Wingate Sandstone cliffs not being outstanding. Parts of the watercourse provide challenging hiking, but their limited extent in the unit diminishes the quality of the recreation experience.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Scenic values are good because of the Wingate Sandstone cliffs. Different elevations within the unit provide ecological values, with very different vegetational communities in proximity.

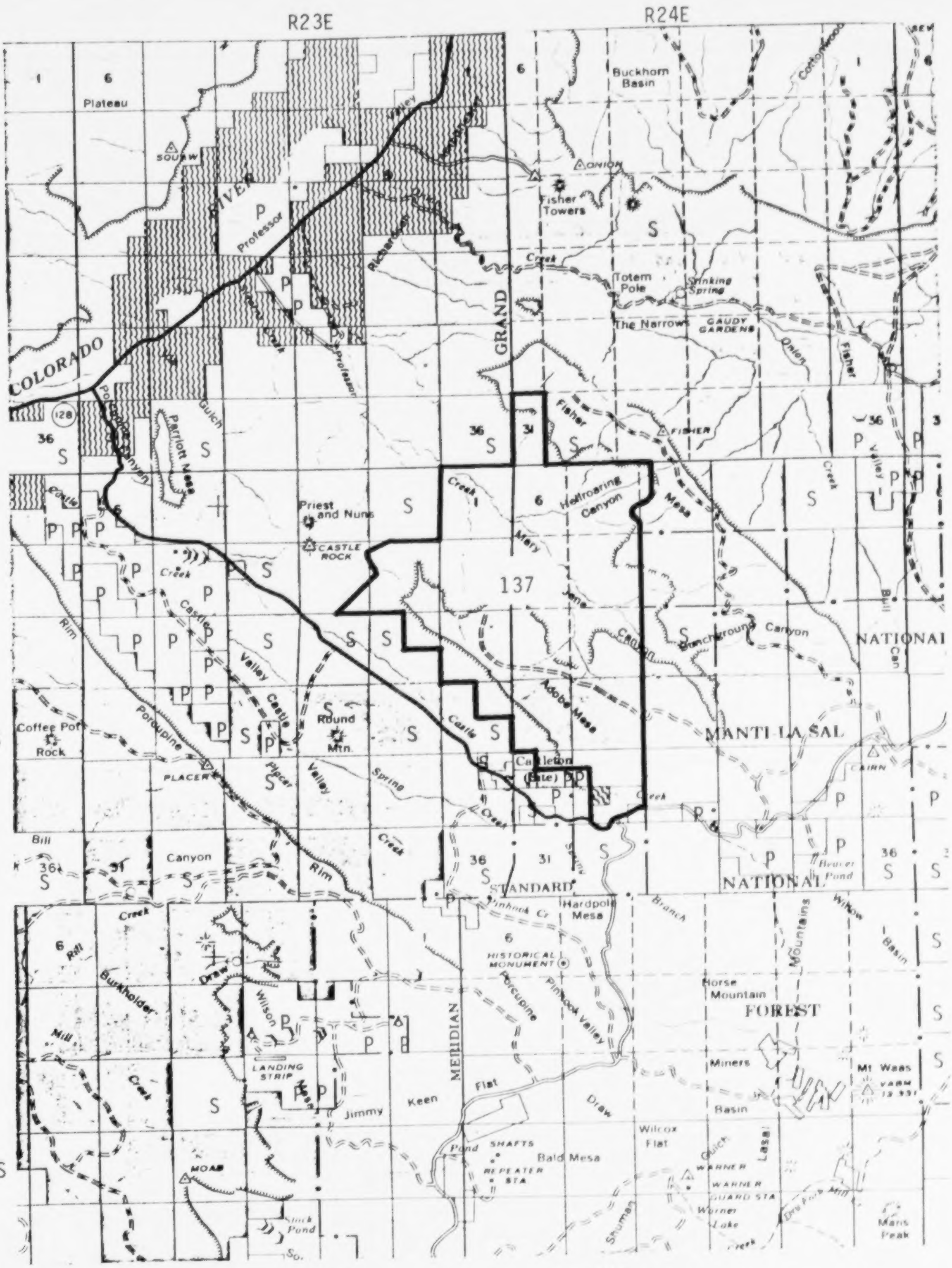
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Comments received include 2 general and 3 specific from 4 individuals and 1 group. All the general comments were opposed to WSA designation, and 2 of the specific were opposed.

All but one of the comments stated that the unit does not meet WSA criteria. A comment said that the unit contained roads, fences, ponds, and trails, but did not provide specific locations. A general comment stated that reclamation was not possible. The single comment in favor of WSA designation said that the unit does contain opportunities for solitude by virtue of its size and topography.

4. DECISION: This unit will be dropped from WSA consideration in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The comments in favor of the original decision to drop this unit from further WSA consideration merely stated their agreement and gave no specific reasons for their decision. The comment mentioning opportunities for solitude was also very general in that it cited no specific locations or reasons.

The original conclusion, that the unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive or unconfined recreation, is unchanged. The unit does possess a variety of supplemental values, but these do not affect the primary criteria.



UT-060-137 - MARY JANE CANYON

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands
- National Forest Service Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-138 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: NEGRO BILL CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 9,420

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is located in southern Grand County, Utah, about 3 miles east of the city of Moab. The main topographic feature of this unit is Negro Bill Canyon, draining west along the southern boundary. State sections cross it in two places near the head, leaving only 7½ miles within the unit. Vegetation ranges from sparse in the west to moderately dense in the east. In Negro Bill Canyon there is riparian vegetation.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit contains 9,420 acres of land administered by BLM. There are also 160 acres of State land within the unit boundaries which were not inventoried for wilderness.

B. NATURALNESS: Human imprints in this unit are mostly in the northern third of the unit, causing an apparent loss of naturalness of about 30% of the unit. There is a traveled route in the mouth of Negro Bill Canyon, and a cement foundation from an old building. About ¼ mile of the traveled route existed prior to the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) in 1976. The remainder (about 1 mile) was constructed after the passage of FLPMA and cannot be considered when evaluating the naturalness of this unit. The natural portion of the unit is about 8 miles long and 1½ miles wide.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Topographic screening exists in Negro Bill Canyon and in the area of sandstone fins. Vegetative screening is present in the eastern part of the unit, but is very limited in the west. Riparian vegetation in the bottom of the canyon provides some localized screening. The narrow configuration of the unit and non-Federal land ownership patterns detract from the opportunities for solitude within the unit. Negro Bill Canyon provides some vertical separation, but the narrow configuration combined with non-Federal land ownership patterns which cut the canyon in two places diminish opportunities which might otherwise be present. Side canyons running into Negro Bill Canyon are not extensive enough to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Negro Bill Canyon offers some opportunities to hike, camp, picnic, swim and wade. The high sandstone fins east of the canyon mouth also offer hiking opportunities. However, the limited extent of any one of these areas renders opportunities less than outstanding. The unit does not offer a diversity of recreation pursuits.

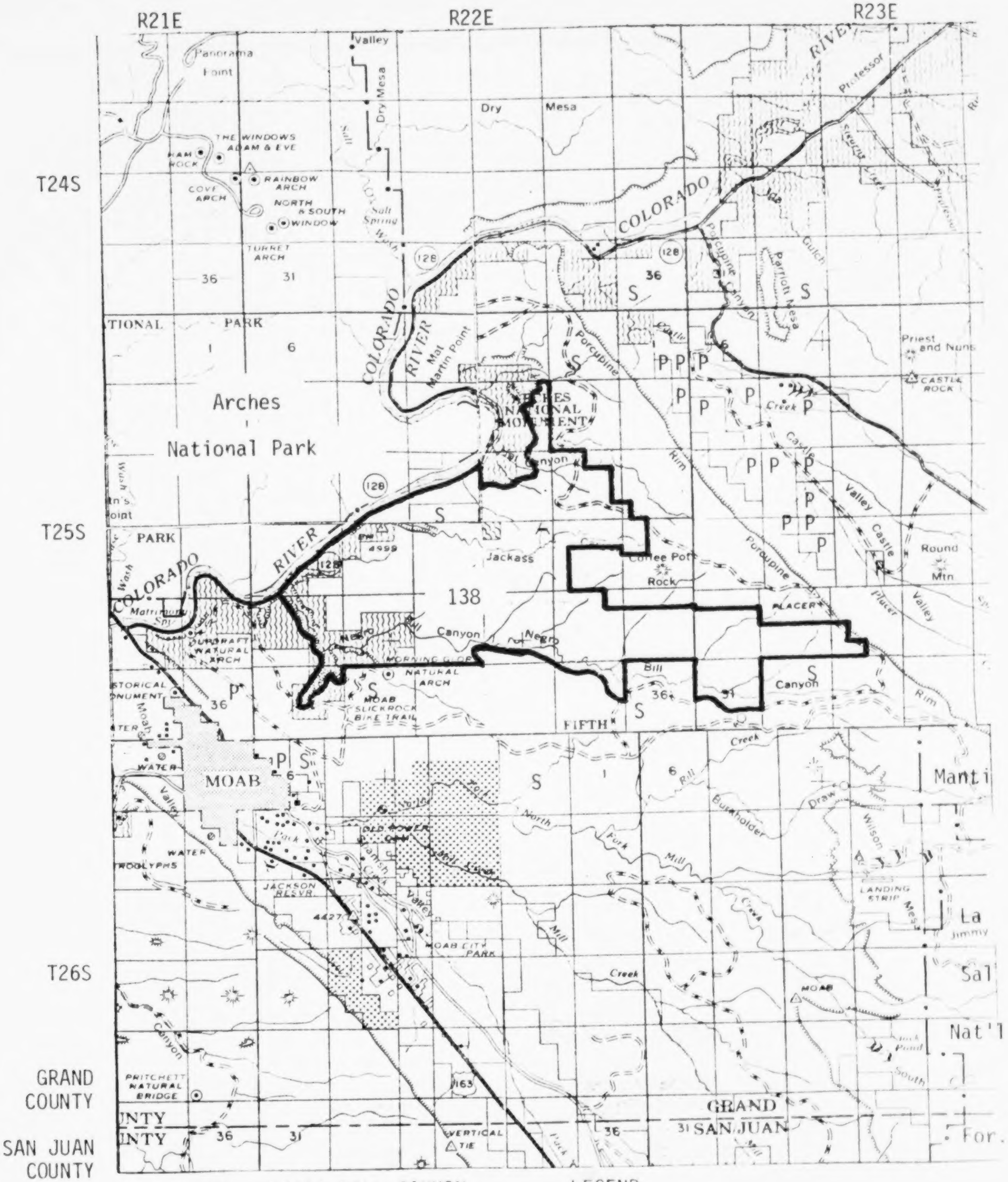
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Scenic values are very good in Negro Bill Canyon with many sheer sandstone walls and other formations. The perennial stream provides riparian vegetation and natural pools.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Comments were received from 13 individuals and 2 groups; 12 were specific. A change to WSA status was supported by all but 2 general and 3 specific comments.

Two respondents stated they concurred with the original proposal. Naturalness was addressed by 9 comments; 5 noted the road/way at the mouth of the canyon but stated it could be reclaimed; 1 stated this area should be dropped but the remainder of the canyon was natural; 3 that the unit had lost its naturalness. Two of these noted roads in the canyon bottom and on the rim, also stating these could not be reclaimed; one also noted other imprints (fences, ponds, concrete foundation). Two noted the proximity of the Slickrock Bike Trail. Lack of opportunities for solitude were noted by 4 comments; 7 stated opportunities were outstanding due to topography and vegetation, limited views within the canyon and broad views from mesa tops. One comment challenged the original statement that limited extent of areas of topographic relief diminish opportunities present. Lack of opportunities for primitive recreation were noted by 4 comments; one noted current hunting and ORV use. Outstanding opportunities were noted by 5 (hiking, backpacking, stream activities, camping, photography, nature study, sight seeing). One generally stated size and/or topography provided solitude. Supplemental scenic, ecologic, and geologic values were noted, with many comments on Morning Glory Arch. Proximity to Moab was noted both pro and con WSA status. State school sections and a power site withdrawal were noted. The comment was also made that Grand County has too many roads for wilderness, that the National Parks and State have too much land withdrawn and that the land is needed for other uses.

4. DECISION: The original proposal to drop the unit from further study will be implemented.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Comments regarding naturalness did not provide new information. The Moab Slickrock Bike Trail is outside the unit and not to be considered. Comments regarding lack of opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation were not substantiated. Present use cannot be considered in accordance with OAD 78-61, Change 3. Comments supporting outstanding opportunities generally gave site-specific reasons; references to mesa tops did not clearly relate to areas within the natural part of the unit. These comments did not address unit configuration, which was part of the original rationale for stating opportunities are limited. This conclusion was based on careful consideration of criteria given in the guidelines regarding "outstanding." Supplemental values given echo those in the original inventory report. Morning Glory Arch is on State land outside unit boundaries and cannot be considered. Presence of State land within unit boundaries has been noted; state land was not inventoried and is not part of the unit. Land withdrawals are not part of inventory criteria. Factors relating to Grand County outside the unit are irrelevant. In general no new information was provided by the public. Comments challenging opportunities for solitude, while site-specific, did not address all factors considered in the orignal rationale regarding "outstanding" and do not warrant changing the original proposal.



UT-060-138 - NEGRO BILL CANYON

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands
- National Park Service Boundary
- National Forest Service Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-139A | WSA ACREAGE: 10,320

UNIT NAME: MILL CREEK | UNIT ACREAGE: 17,820

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is located west of the La Sal Mountains, between Spanish Valley and Wilson and South Mesas. It is 3 miles east-southeast of Moab, in Grand County, Utah. The drainages of South and North Fork of Mill Creek (including Rill Creek and Burkholder Draw) make up this unit. Canyons are up to 400 feet deep, and the toplands between are flat to rolling, with a rugged area of exposed sandstone fins and ridges in the northwest. Vegetation varies from riparian communities in much of the stream beds to widely scattered pinyon and juniper on most of the toplands. Higher elevations in the east have dense pinyon-juniper and some stands of Ponderosa pine.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 17,820 acres of BLM-administered land.

B. NATURALNESS: Human imprints occur along the northern boundary road (3 short ways and 2 seismograph lines), on Wilson Mesa (chained area affecting about 200 acres), and in the south and southwest (18 miles of ways and 9 miles of seismograph lines). Such a concentration of evidence of human activity has caused a loss of apparent naturalness in these areas.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Topography provides excellent screening in the canyons and some parts of the toplands. Vegetation is thick enough to provide good screening only in parts of the canyon bottoms and the higher elevations in the east. The combination of these factors indicates outstanding opportunities for solitude in over half this unit including canyon bottoms, sandstone fins and ridges, and the higher elevations in the east.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: There are many outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in this unit. The canyons, with year-round water, provide excellent opportunities for many forms of recreation (hiking, backpacking, swimming and wading, climbing, photography, and nature study). Some of these activities are also possible on the toplands.

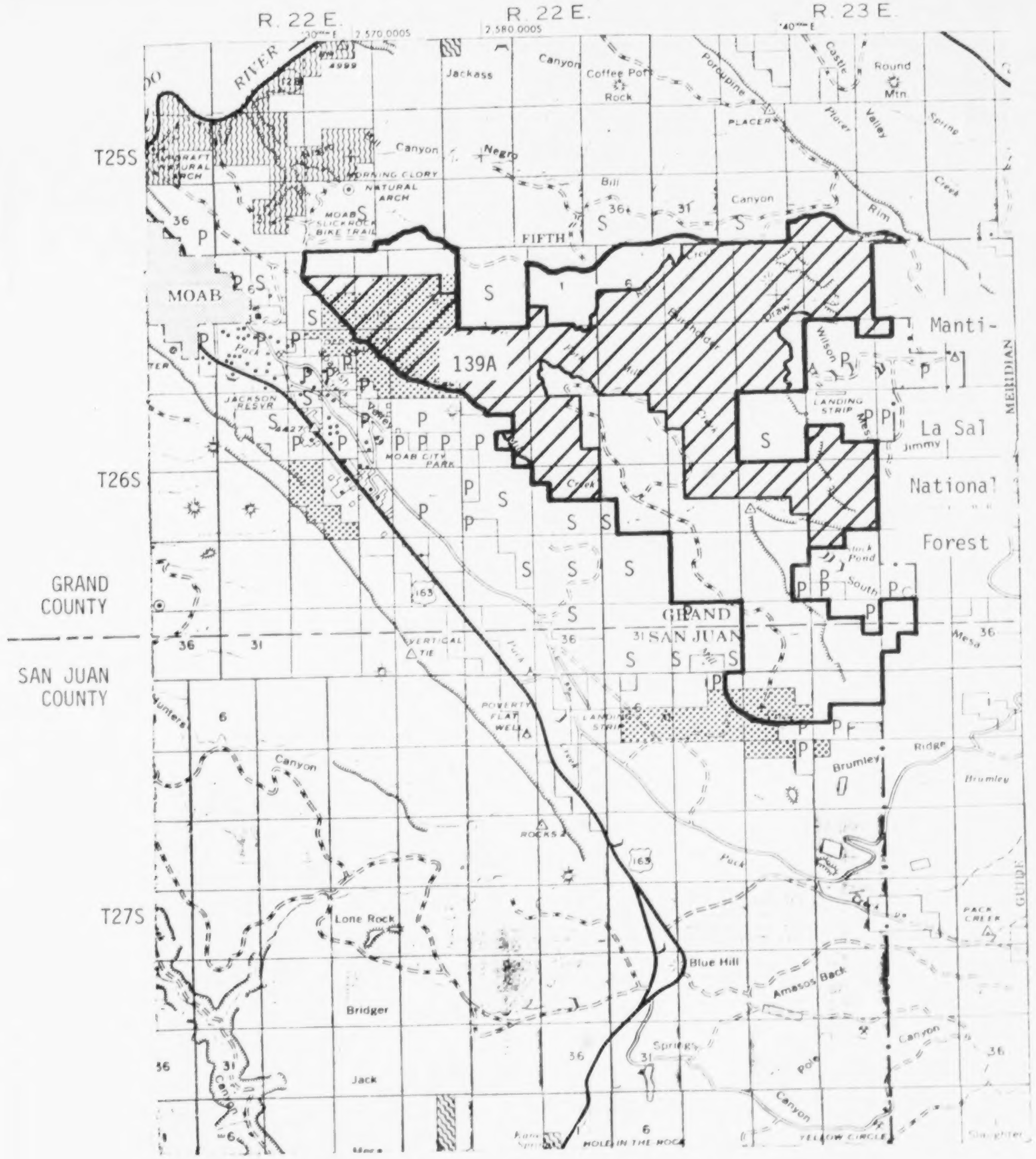
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Scenic values are excellent in this unit, and there are several petroglyph panels in North Fork Mill Creek. Perennial streams support riparian communities, providing supplemental ecological values.

3. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS On this unit 10 general and 14 specific comments were received from 24 individuals and 3 groups. Of the comments, 8 general and 12 specific were in favor of WSA status.

One comment stated configuration was not suitable for WSA status and mentioned specific jeep trails in the northern part of the WSA. Another mentioned jeep trails along the southwestern edge and suggested banning ORV use in this area if a WSA is established. Three comments referred generally to imprints (ORV trails, roads, fences, ponds, litter) but did not give locations; reclamation was judged impossible. Two others concurred with the original assessment and 6 stated the canyons remain natural. Many noted topographic screening offers solitude; 1 stated adjacent farming, private land and ORV use along the southwest perimeter affected opportunities in this area and suggested setting aside a 240 acre buffer zone. Many felt the unit offered outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation (hiking, backpacking, climbing, swimming, fishing); 2 that no opportunities were present. One respondent stated that wilderness designation was not necessary and that the area should remain accessible to non-hikers (handicapped, elderly). Supplemental, geologic, ecologic, archeologic, and scenic values were mentioned; 2 felt the unit contains no supplemental values. Other items listed were camping, ORV use, and proximity to Moab. Comments also addressed mineral exploration, leaving the area open for multiple use and banning cattle due to water pollution.

4. DECISION: The original proposal (10,630 acres) has been modified to a 10,320 acre Mill Creek WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Field checks verified additional imprints in areas cited causing a general loss of naturalness to a 260 acre area on the northern side and a 50 acre area on the southwestern edge along South Mill Creek. Additionally, an abandoned way was noted on the northern side below the rim of Rill Creek Canyon; this cuts down the canyon and runs for about 1 mile crossing Rill Creek. An abandoned piece of equipment remains below the rim. This way was judged to be substantially unnoticeable since the cut is visible only from a small area directly below; the remainder of the way is washed out and overgrown. The WSA does have an irregular configuration but follows the canyon system which provides vertical separation conducive to opportunities for solitude. Riparian vegetation enhances these opportunties. Public comments tended to support these conclusions. Adjacent land use cannot be considered in assessing opportunities for solitude within the unit. Other comments stating the unit did not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation did not give site specific data; comments regarding lack of reclamation potential were also unsupported. Recreational opportunities present are outstanding, as brought out by public comment, due to diversity of terrain and opportunities afforded by the perennial stream. These opportunities support WSA status. Supplemental values noted agreed with BLM observations. Camping and ORV use are current recreational uses, not supplemental values; current use patterns are not considered during the inventory phase. Mineral values, potential user groups, proximity to Moab, and competing grazing uses will be addressed during the study phase. Wilderness is defined as a facet of multiple use.



UT-060-139A - MILL CREEK
MILL CREEK WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands
- National Forest Service Bndry.

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NUMBER: UT-060-140A WSA ACREAGE: 12,930

UNIT NAME: BEHIND THE ROCKS UNIT ACREAGE: 19,300

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in Grand and San Juan Counties just southwest of Moab. It is bounded on the northeast by the cliff face above Moab and Spanish Valley. The Colorado River runs just outside the unit on the northwest. The Pritchett Canyon road forms the western boundary. The unit is characterized by Navajo sandstone formations.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit contains 19,300 acres of BLM administered land, 7,780 acres in Grand County and 11,520 in San Juan County. A State section of 640 acres lies within unit boundaries on the county line. The unit is about 11 miles long and from 2 to 5 miles wide.

B. NATURALNESS: The southwestern portion of the unit has been heavily impacted by minerals exploration activities, resulting in the loss of naturalness of about 5,640 acres (30%) of the unit. The Moab Rim jeep trail runs through the northern tip of the unit, shearing about 730 acres from the main body of the unit. The remainder of the unit remains relatively natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The majority of the natural part of the unit presents outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the horizontal and vertical screening provided by the rock formations. Although the unit is narrow, the 1000-foot cliff face bordering the unit for 11 miles provides vertical separation from nearby cultural imprints (Moab and U.S. 163). Vegetational screening is minimal, but the outstanding screening provided by the Navajo fins compensates for this.

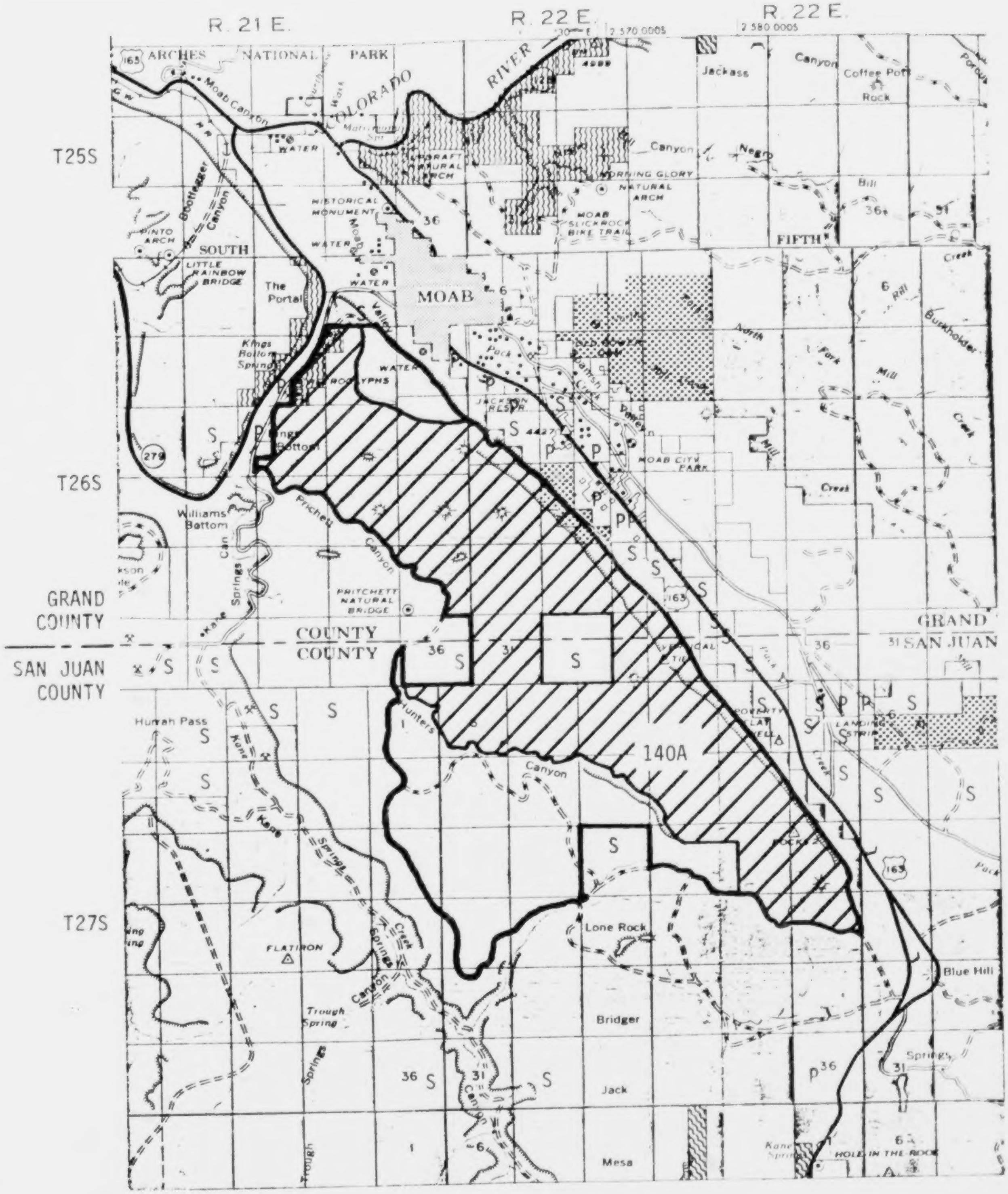
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The red rock fins provide outstanding opportunities for dayhiking, backpacking, rock climbing and scrambling. The many access routes in and around the fins provide diversity. Other types of recreation, such as horseback riding, may be possible but are not optimal due to the rugged terrain.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit has geologic, scenic and archeologic supplemental values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Comments received included 10 general and 27 specific from 36 individuals, 3 groups and 1 agency. All of the general comments and 11 of the specific comments favored WSA designation; 1 was neutral. One comment stated the unit was too small. Comments regarding naturalness mentioned imprints within the unit (roads, Class D roads, mining, drilling, wells, fences) but were not specific; one comment referenced the road from Blue Hill to the Colorado River. One comment supported a WSA but requested exclusion of the Moab Rim and Pritchett Canyon jeep trails. Several comments noted lack of opportunities for solitude; specifically, the narrow configuration, lack of vegetation, proximity of Moab, and the Blue Hill road were mentioned as limiting opportunities. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were noted by many respondents due to the topography. Supplemental values mentioned included grazing, minerals (uranium, copper), archeologic, scenic, hiking, climbing and views of the LaSal Mountains. One comment claimed school sections in the unit would make reclamation impossible. One comment requested including the southwest flank of Spanish Valley due to access; another that proximity to Moab increased WSA value. One requested minerals exploration be strictly monitored.

4. DECISION: A 12,930 acre WSA, Behind the Rocks, will be identified according to the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Both the unit and the WSA are in excess of 5,000 acres and meet size requirements. The road from Blue Hill appears to be the Pritchett Canyon road which is the unit boundary. The Moab Rim jeep trail has been excluded from the WSA. Although many imprints exist in the southern end of the unit, these were excluded from the WSA. Based on County maps there appear to be no Class D roads within the WSA. Mines noted on the northwest edge of the WSA appear to be on private lands adjacent to the unit. Other imprints referenced were not location-specific. Most comments regarding lack of opportunities for solitude were not site related. Limited vegetative screening was noted, but outstanding topographic screening compensates for this; topography also provides vertical separation of the WSA from the valley below, overcoming the narrow configuration of the WSA. Factors outside unit boundaries cannot be considered. Comments supporting WSA status gave site-specific information regarding outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Supplemental values originally noted were verified; other values mentioned were recreational or did not pertain to WSA criteria. Grazing uses and mineral values will be assessed during the wilderness study phase. State school sections within unit boundaries have been noted and are not included in either the unit or the WSA; relationship to reclamation potential is not clear. The southwest flank of Spanish Valley was dropped during the initial inventory and will not be reconsidered. No new information was provided to warrant a change in the original proposal; however, several specific comments supported the proposal.



UT-060-140A - BEHIND THE ROCKS

LEGEND

- Unit Boundary
- WSA
- S - State Lands
- P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile

MDO- 8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-164 WSA ACREAGE: 7,300

UNIT NAME: LOCKHART BASIN UNIT ACREAGE: 7,300

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The inventory unit is adjacent to the Maze proposed wilderness north of the Needles district of Canyonlands National Park (NP). It lies about 2 miles west of the Needles Overlook on Hatch Point. Terrain is similar to that of the Maze proposed wilderness, having finely dissected gullies and canyons cut into sparsely vegetated red rock.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 7,300 acres of BLM-administered land. No state or private land is found within unit boundaries.

B. NATURALNESS: No intrusions or human imprints were found within the unit, yet grazing has occurred throughout most of the area. The unit appears to be natural and untrammelled by man.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Landforms in the unit provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude because they consist of numerous narrow, twisting drainages which empty either into Indian Creek or run outside unit boundaries into the Colorado River.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit provides outstanding opportunities for hiking and related activities. This is especially apparent in Indian Creek and the surrounding drainages.

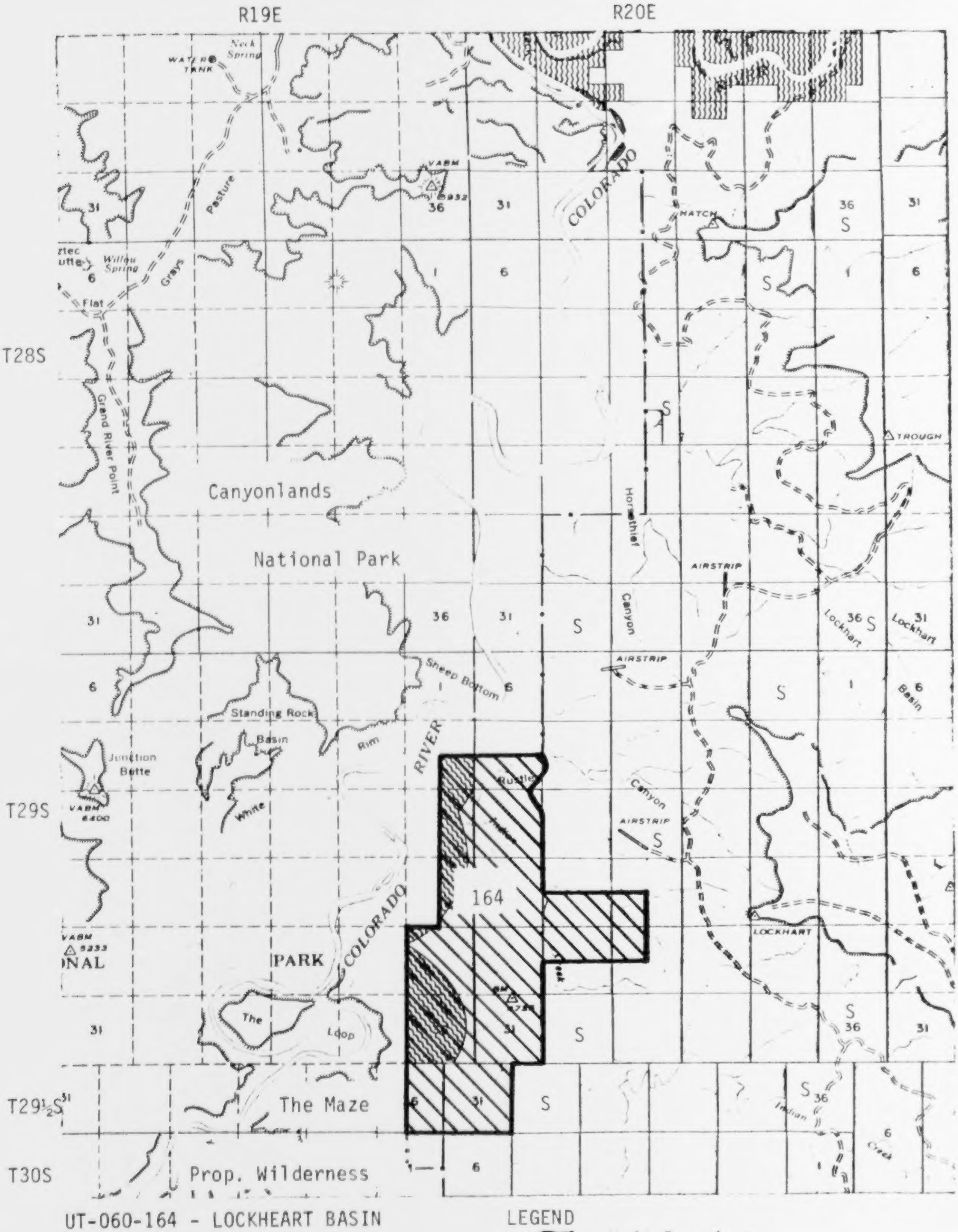
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A total of 34 comments were received for this unit. Two comments were received from governmental agencies, 29 individual comments, and four special interest groups also commented. Thirteen of these were general comments, the remaining 21 were specific Of the specific comments, six favored WSA designation, 15 did not. Eleven of the general comments supported WSA designation and two were opposed. Eleven specific comments mentioned that the unit is natural and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation. These conclusions were not supported by much site specific data, but the presence of winding canyons and topographic screening was mentioned as a basis for conclusions. Supplemental values, such as scenic values and archaeological sites were mentioned. One respondent said the unit should be considered with Canyonlands National Park.

Two of the specific comments opposing WSA designation based their conclusions on considerations that fall outside the unit such as the presence of Canyonlands National Park, roads and state sections which form parts of the boundary of the unit or are totally separate from the unit. Comments stated that the unit has potential for minerals, oil and gas.

4. DECISION: The 7,300 acre Lockhart Basin WSA is identified.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The specific comments supporting the original BLM proposal to identify this unit as a WSA generally agreed with BLM's intensive inventory findings but did not provide any new information. Those opposed based their conclusions on their assertions that the unit has oil, gas and mineral potential, and upon intrusions or activities that are outside of the unit. These can't be considered in the intensive inventory because they fall under "Sights and Sounds Considerations" which are prohibited under Organic Act Directive 78-61, Change 3. Mineral, oil and gas potential will be considered later in the study phase.

Since no information or considerations were presented in the comments that were not considered by BLM during the intensive inventory, the original proposal for this unit is considered to be appropriate.



UT-060-164 - LOCKHEART BASIN
INDIAN CREEK WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
- National Park Service Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-165 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: SIX SHOOTER PEAKS UNIT ACREAGE: 10,130

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is just east of the Needles section of Canyonlands National Park, about 25 miles northwest of the town of Monticello in San Juan County, Utah. Topography consists of wide, open basins separated by flat-topped mesas 400 feet above. Two sandstone pinnacles (North and South Six Shooter peaks) reach over 900 feet above the basin floors. Vegetation is sparse throughout the unit, low shrubs and grass in the basins, widely scattered pinyon and juniper on the mesas.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 10,130 acres of BLM Land. No private or state land is within the boundary.

B. NATURALNESS: There are human imprints in most parts of the unit including one way, several seismograph lines, a shale pit and drift fence. None of these are very noticeable, and the unit does appear generally natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Wide open basin floors and flat mesa tops account for about 70% of the unit, providing very little topographic screening. Even the slopes of the mesas provide limited screening. Vegetation is very sparse, mostly low shrubs and grasses with some widely scattered pinyon and juniper. This small unit has a constricted configuration, pinches to less than 3/4 of a mile wide in the middle by state and private lands, and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The topography of this unit does not indiciate good opportunities for primitive recreation. Wide, open basins and flat mesas do not provide challenging or varied terrain, and the only focal features are the two Six Shooter Peaks, sandstone pinnacles which are scenic but provide little recreation potential. This unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The two Six Shooter Peaks provide scenic and geologic values.

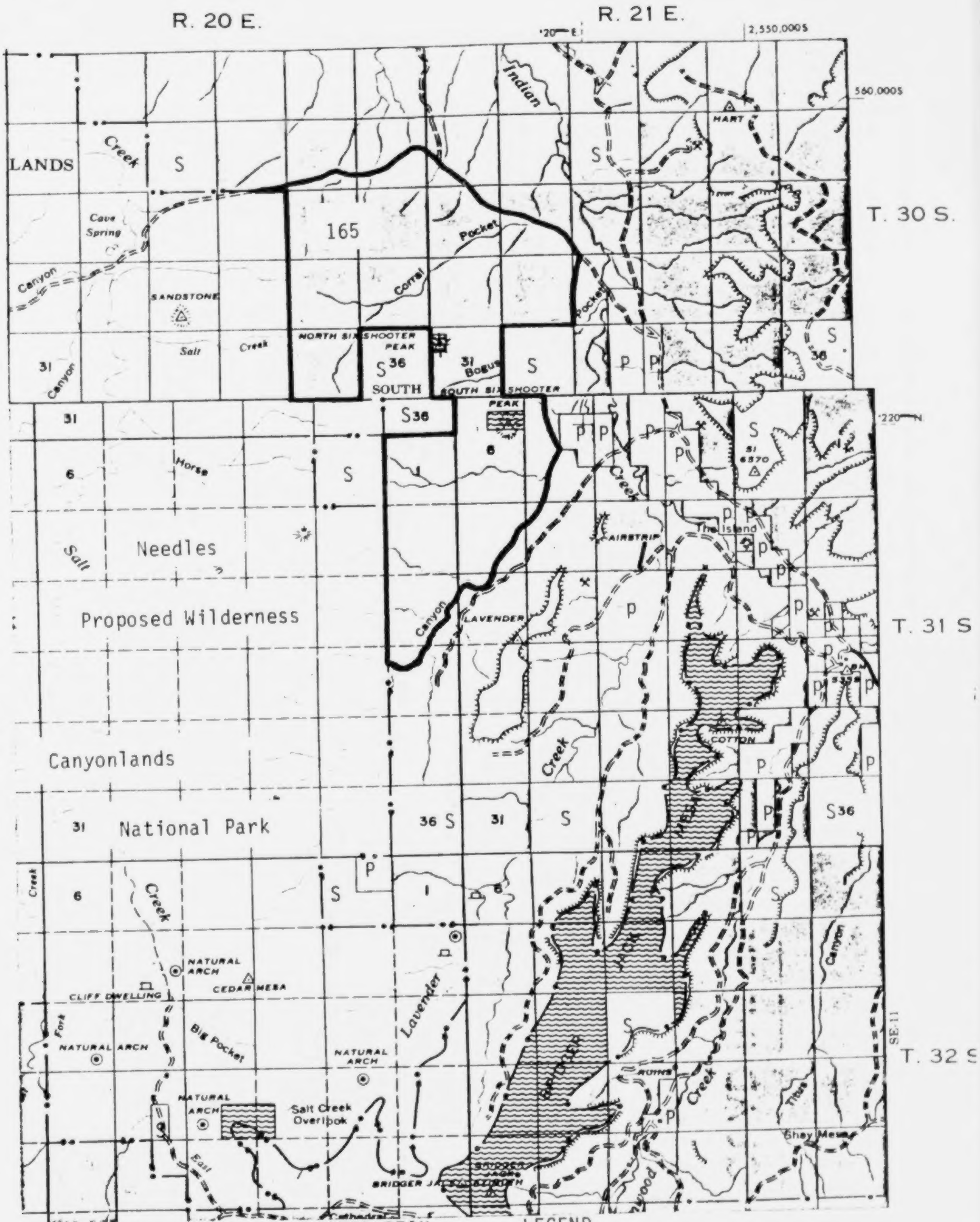
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A total of 14 comments were received for this unit from 12 individuals, one group and one public agency. Eight comments were specific and six were general. All eight specific comments and one general comment favored WSA designation, all of the rest were opposed.

The specific comments addressed the primary criteria for wilderness. Five comments addressed naturalness. Two said the unit is substantially natural and three stated the mesas and pinnacles are natural. Six comments addressed solitude and stated that outstanding solitude exists in the unit. As a basis for their conclusions, respondents mentioned the presence of rugged terrain, good configuration, vistas, mesas, and the wide coves between the mesas. Five stated hiking, backpacking, photography and rock climbing are primitive and unconfined recreation activities that can be pursued in the unit. Supplemental values listed were: scenic values, spring runoff water and archaeology. Other concerns were discussed. One said it gives a feeling of wilderness, although the area is relatively flat. One noted that it is contiguous to Canyonlands National Park. One noted that it is contiguous to other wilderness proposals, while another said "Outward Bound" uses the area. Three general comments stated that they were pleased and commended the BLM for getting rid of this unit. Another expressed support for the original proposal.

4. DECISION: The original proposal will be implemented. NO WSA will be identified in this unit.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Although it is agreed the area is primarily natural, much of the unit provides very little natural screening and has a constricted configuration. The only focal features are North and South Six Shooter Peaks. The area generally lacks challenging terrain for primitive and unconfined recreation. Due to these factors, the area does not have potential for providing outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Supplemental values exist but are not primary considerations for wilderness study area identification. While Canyonlands National Park is adjacent to the unit, its presence does not change the BLM assessment of its wilderness potential, since comparison between areas is prohibited by OAD 78-61, Change 3. Size was not a factor, the unit is large enough, but it does not meet the criteria for outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

All information provided had been previously considered by the BLM in evaluating the unit and developing the original proposal. The proposed decision is considered to be appropriate for the unit and should be retained.



UT-060-165 - NORTH SIXSHOOTER PEAK

LEGEND

- (solid line) - Unit Boundary
- S - State Lands
- P - Private Lands
- (dash-dot line) - National Park Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-167 WSA ACREAGE: 5,300

UNIT NAME: BRIDGER JACK MESA UNIT ACREAGE: 5,300

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located east of the Needles section of Canyonlands National Park about 18 miles west-northwest of the town of Monticello in San Juan County, Utah. It consists of a long, narrow mesa top which is generally flat in the south, with sandstone domes and knolls rising up to 450 feet above the mesa top in the north. Pinyon and juniper vegetation covers about 75% of the unit, dense on half the mesa, with large grassland areas covering the other 25%.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 5,300 acres of BLM-administered land.

B. NATURALNESS: There are no significant imprints of human activity in this unit. The entire top of Bridger Jack Mesa appears natural and untrammelled by man.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Topographic screening is limited in the south, but is a good deal better in the north. Vegetative screening is good in places throughout the unit, with thick pinyon and juniper. These factors, in combination with the vertical isolation from surrounding areas, indicate outstanding opportunities for solitude in this unit.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: There are many opportunities for primitive recreation in this unit, including hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, climbing, photography, bird watching, sightseeing, biological and zoological observations, and scientific study. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in this unit are outstanding because of the variety of opportunities existing.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Scenic values are good in this unit, and there are four identified archaeological sites.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A total of 36 comments was received for the unit from 33 individuals, three groups, and two public agencies. Of these ten were general and 26 were specific. Nine of the ten general comments were in favor of WSA designation, the other offered no recommendation. Ten of the specific comments favored WSA designation, the rest were opposed.

The specific comments for WSA designation stated that the unit meets the criteria for WSA designation. They indicated the unit is natural (10) and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude (7) and primitive and unconfined recreation (5). Factors mentioned as contributing to these opportunities included natural screening provided by the topography and vegetation. A variety of recreation pursuits was listed as being provided by the area. These included hiking, backpacking, photography and visiting Indian ruins. Supplemental values listed included geological, archaeological, scenic and wildlife values.

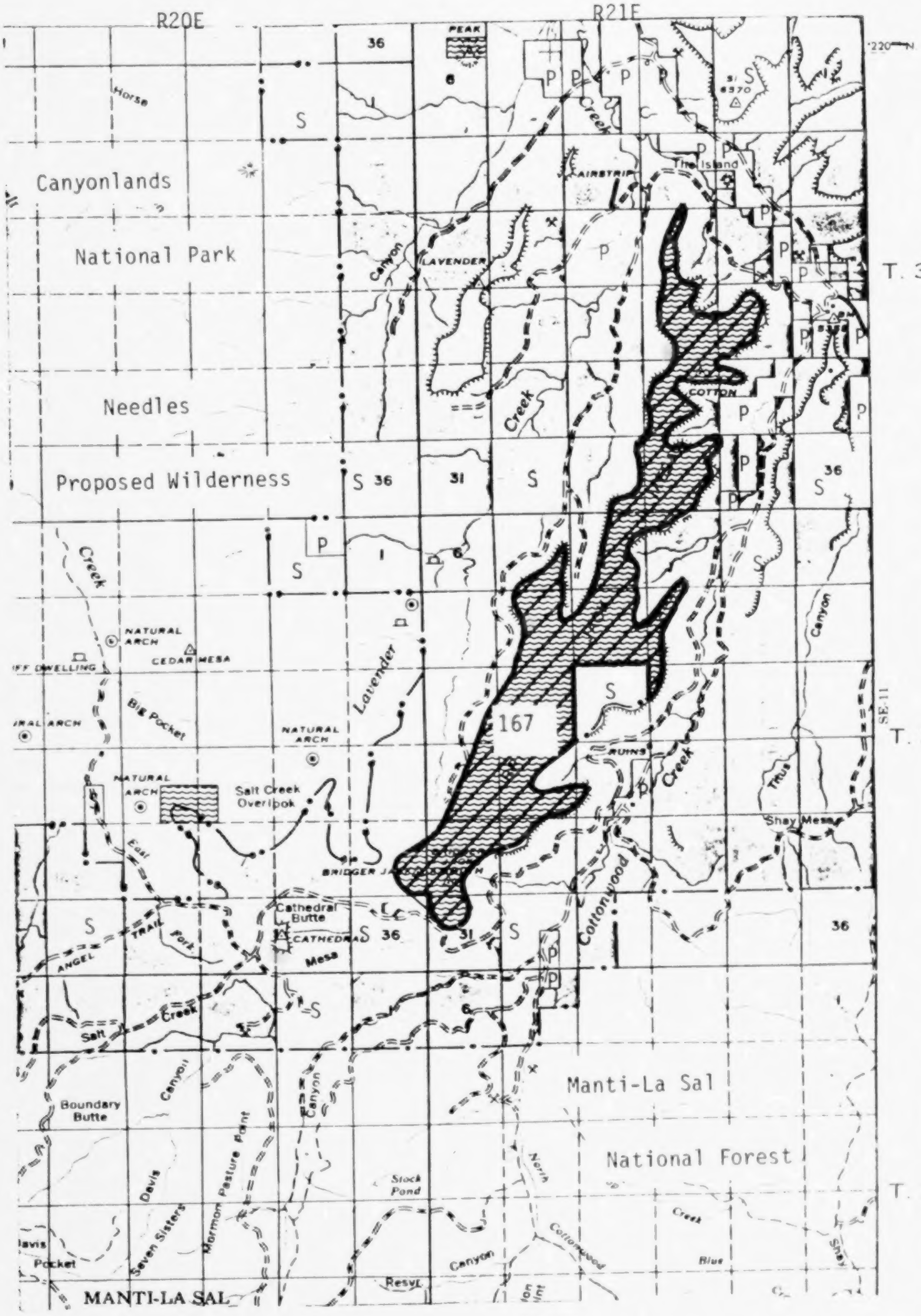
Information not relating to the wilderness criteria was also provided, (e.g., possibilities of studying pinyon-juniper associations.)

Comments opposing WSA status indicated the unit is affected by roads (5). Eleven said the unit is not natural, with two stating surrounding activities affect the unit. They indicated that there are intrusions within the unit (8), seven providing specific locations for intrusions. Listed were roads, reservoirs, reseeding and mines, including a mine under the unit. Statements regarding lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation were based on conclusions regarding configuration and intrusions. Others discussed concerns that do not relate to wilderness criteria (e.g., whether or not the unit is unique and how it compares to the nearby national parks).

4. DECISION; The entire 5,300 acre unit will be identified for study as the Bridger Jack Mesa WSA.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Relevant site-specific information was not provided to substantiate the conclusions contained in many of the statements. Where provided, it was not new information, or information that had not been considered by BLM. Comments discussing the units wilderness related characteristics did not add to BLM's knowledge of the unit. The intrusions and human imprints are nearly all located outside the unit. The mine under the unit is vertically separated from the unit surface by the high mesa walls. The mesa top is substantially natural in appearance. Information relating to non-criteria considerations contained in the comments cannot be considered in the intensive wilderness inventory.

No information or concerns were provided by public comments that would cause BLM to reconsider the original proposal. This proposal is considered to be appropriate.



UT-060-167 - BRIDGER JACK MESA
BRIDGER JACK MESA WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands
- National Park Boundary
- National Forest Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO: UT-060-169 WSA ACREAGE: 22,120

UNIT NAME: BUTLER WASH UNIT ACREAGE: 27,870

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is located south of Canyonlands National Park in San Juan County, Utah about 24 miles west northwest of Monticello. It is adjacent to the Needles proposed wilderness (61,182 acres) of Canyonlands National Park. Open parks, flat drainages and high buttes make up the western and the northern part of the unit (about 60%). Very rugged terrain covers the remainder of the unit. Vegetation is sparse throughout the unit, ranging from scattered pinyon and juniper in higher areas and slopes to sage and grasses in the parks and wash bottoms.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 27,870 acres of land administered by BLM. Five state sections totaling 3,200 acres are within the boundaries but were not inventoried for wilderness.

B. NATURALNESS: There are many imprints of human activity along the western and southern boundaries, including ways, drill sites, chained areas totaling 300 acres, and roads. Cumulative impacts of minor imprints in the west and major imprints in the south have caused these areas to lose their natural appearance. The remainder of the unit (90%) still appears generally natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Vegetative screening is very limited throughout. Half of the unit offers limited topographic screening; topographic screening is very good in the other half of the unit, including the canyons in the southeast, the Needles in the northeast, and most of Butler Wash. Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in this eastern part of the unit.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: This unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, hiking or backpacking in the several forks of Salt Creek; climbing or exploring around the Needles, and following Butler Wash or its side canyons among the buttes.

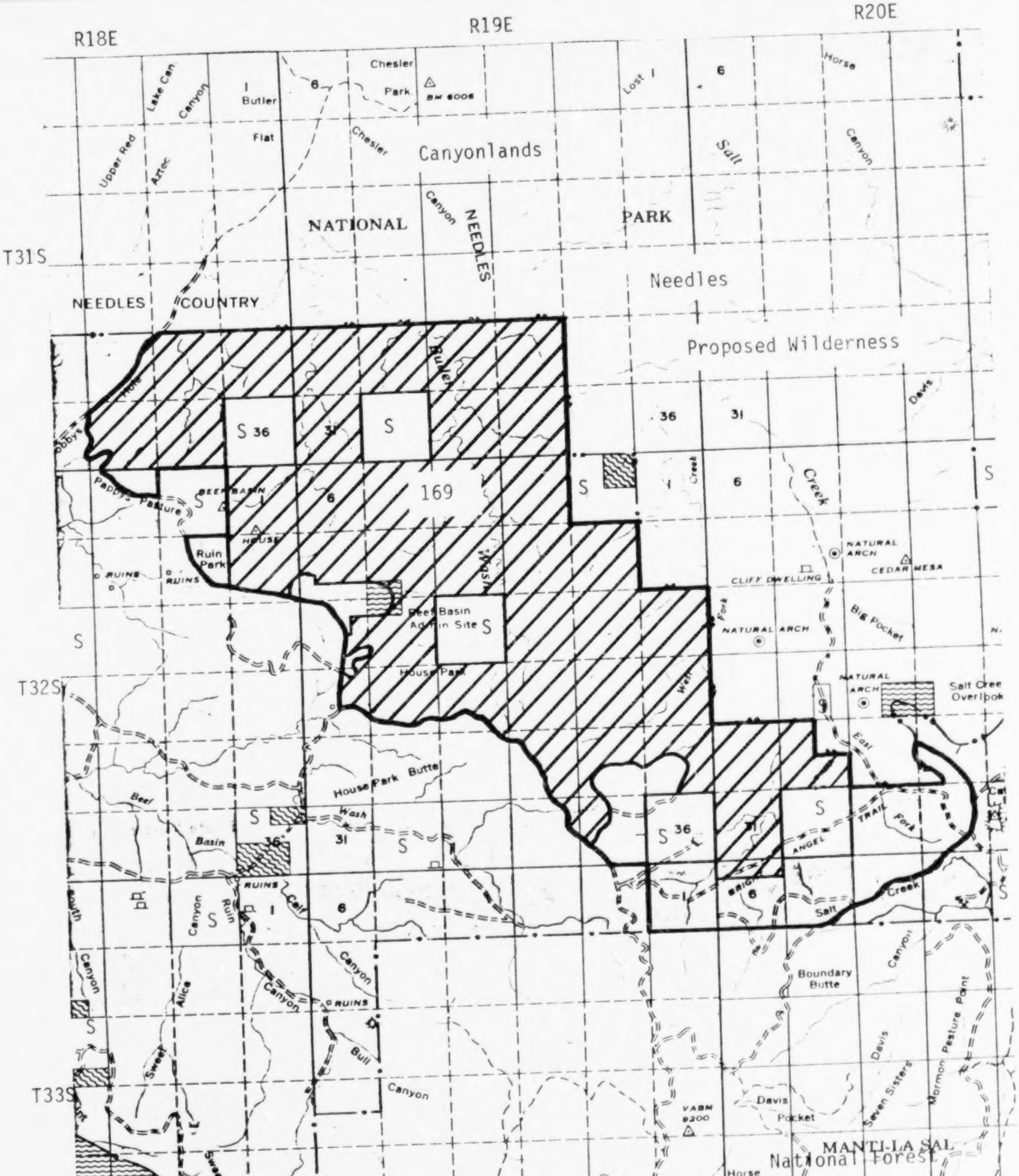
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Scenic values are exceptional with alternating red and buff bands of sandstone in the south and intricate pinnacles in the northeast. There are also numerous archaeological sites in the unit (11 inventoried, many others not cataloged).

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A total of 36 comments was received for this unit from 32 individuals, three groups and two public agencies; 11 of the comments were general, and 25 were specific. All of the general comments and nine of the specific comments favored WSA designation. One other specific comment offered no recommendation. The rest were all opposed to WSA designation.

All of the nine specific comments for WSA designation indicated that the unit meets the criteria for wilderness. Several stated that there are human imprints in parts of the unit; however, all agreed that the unit or parts of it are natural. Most said it provided outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Some provided opinions regarding the unit's characteristics to substantiate their conclusions. Mentioned were the presence of natural screening and opportunities for specified primitive and unconfined recreation pursuits (climbing and hiking). Supplemental values mentioned were archaeologic, geologic and scenic values. Most of the fifteen opposed to WSA designation indicated that the area is not natural, citing the presence of intrusions, including seeding areas, drill holes and other imprints. Several specified locations for intrusions, and others identified areas they considered lacking in naturalness. Three indicated that the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and two said the same for primitive and unconfined recreation. As a basis for these conclusions, respondents said the area is not unique and is drab with very little scenery. Several indicated the human imprints cannot be removed and a number were concerned about oil and gas leases, grazing, and other considerations. An inter-agency comment suggested adding additional acreage adjacent to the National Park proposal in the vicinity of Bright Angel Trail.

4. DECISION: The 22,120 acre Butler Wash WSA will be identified with a slight modification from the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: A 160 acre tract has been added adjacent to the National Park proposal. Other proposed additions were felt to be impacted. Although specific information was provided by both those supporting and those opposed to the original proposal, all that was relevant to the wilderness criteria had already been considered by BLM. The intrusions and the intruded areas referred to in the comments are located outside the proposed WSA boundaries. Grazing, minerals, and oil and gas leases will be considered during the study phase. Supplemental values are not primary wilderness values.



UT-060-169 - BUTLER WASH
BUTLER WASH WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Land
- National Park Boundary
- National Forest Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-171 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: SWEET ALICE CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 9,880

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located on the slopes which drop from Wild Cow Point down to Beef Basin. The entire unit is in San Juan County, Utah, about 34 miles west of Monticello. Most of the unit consists of short canyons which drop rapidly, but are not very narrow. Vegetation in these deep, but relatively open canyons, is moderately scattered pinyon and juniper, although both Ponderosa pine and riparian vegetation occur in different parts of the canyon bottoms.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: This unit contains 9,880 acres of BLM-administered land.

B. NATURALNESS: Five short ways enter the unit from the boundary roads along the northwest, the longest extending slightly over one mile into the unit. These are all located in the canyon bottoms, and are noticeable only from the canyon bottoms themselves or the slopes immediately above them. Most of this unit appears generally natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Topography and vegetation both offer some screening in this unit, but even in combination they do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The canyons are very open and moderately scattered pinyon and juniper do not provide very good screening on the uneven slopes. In the canyon bottoms there are some thick stands of vegetation, but also broad open areas. The small size of this unit and its configuration (no canyon longer than 3 miles) further limit opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The canyon's short length and open terrain limit recreation potential, which was not found to be outstanding.

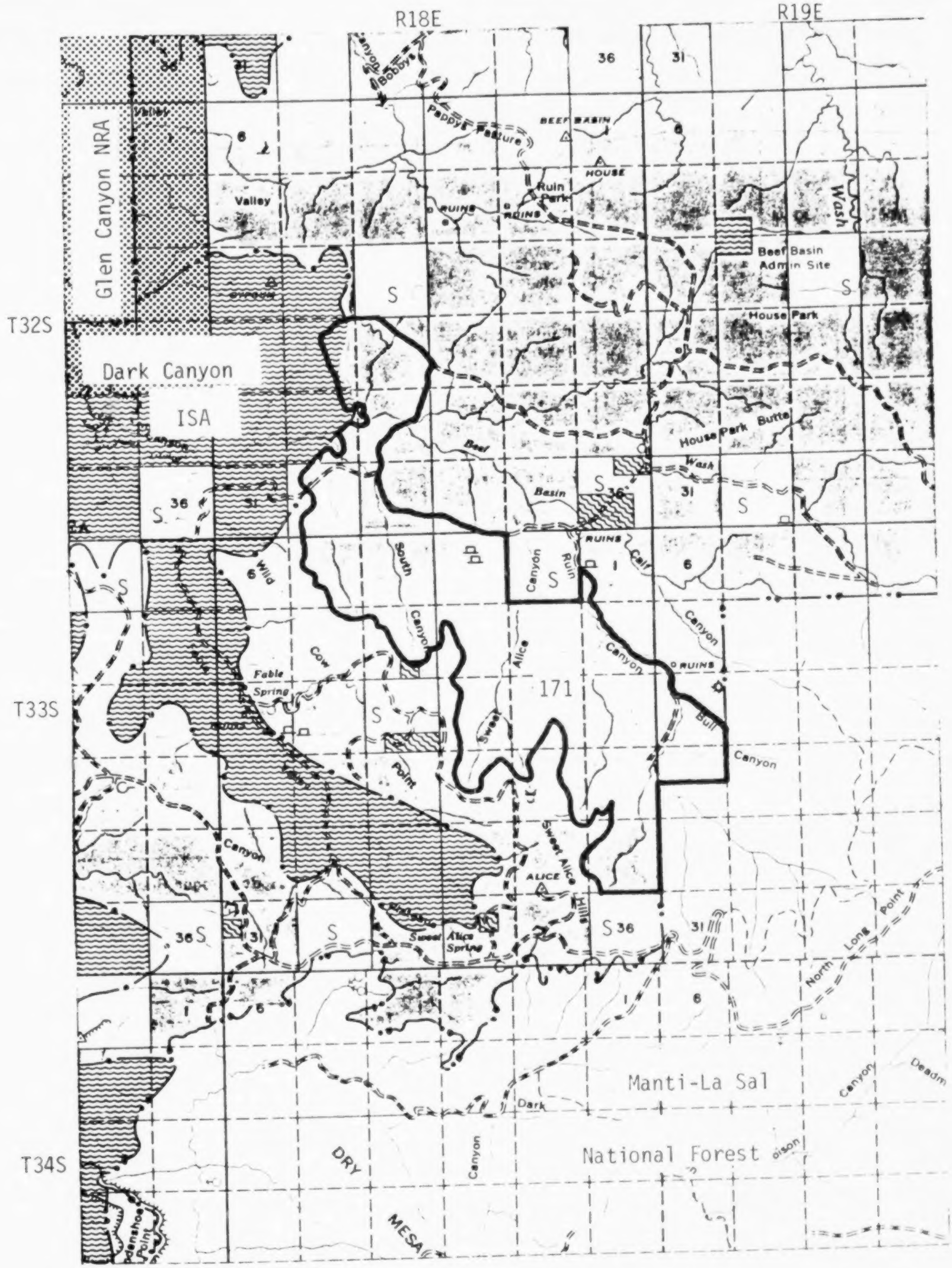
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are 25 recorded archaeological sites in this unit, and many other unrecorded sites. Scenic values are also good in parts of this unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Ten comments were received on this unit; seven general and three specific. Four individuals and one group supported the original proposal; five individuals supported WSA designation.

One respondent commented that the unit was of substantial size. One respondent stated that the unit was natural in character. Opportunities for solitude were considered outstanding by three respondents. One respondent considered opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation to be outstanding. Two respondents gave examples of supplemental values. Three comments referred to a contiguous WSA proposal, Dark Canyon ISA, as having an influence upon the unit.

4. DECISION: No WSA will be identified in this unit.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Of the three comments that addressed outstanding opportunities for solitude, only two gave specific information. Topographic screening was mentioned as providing outstanding opportunities for solitude. Topography and vegetation do provide some screening, but even in combination they do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The small size and configuration of the canyon further limits opportunities for solitude. Hiking, backpacking, and nature study were listed as outstanding types of recreation present in the unit. Due to the canyon's short length and open terrain, recreation potential is limited, and definitely not outstanding. Supplemental values are present in the unit, but these values are not a primary criteria for determining WSA suitability. Comments suggested that the contiguous ISA proposal should influence the unit; however, the unit must meet criteria on its own merit. No new information was provided by the comments that would alter the original proposal. Since no basis for change was provided, the original proposal should be implemented.



UT-060-171 - SWEET ALICE CANYON

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
- Dark Canyon ISA Boundary
- National Park Service Bndry.
- National Forest Service Bndry.

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-175 WSA ACREAGE: 5,990

UNIT NAME: MIDDLE POINT UNIT ACREAGE: 5,990

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located on the western end of Dark Canyon Plateau, in San Juan County, Utah, about 43 miles west of Monticello. It is adjacent to Dark Canyon Primitive Area, an Instant Study Area. The terrain is relatively even, sloping moderately to the west with one shallow canyon. Pinyon and juniper are widely scattered in the west to moderately thick in places, with several openings containing low shrubs and grasses.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: This unit contains 5,990 acres of BLM-administered land.

B. NATURALNESS: A road extends 3½ miles out onto Middle Point where there is a 300 acre chaining. The chaining will become substantially unnoticeable through natural processes, and most of the unit appears generally natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The unit forms a high plateau overlooking the Dark Canyon ISA. It is encircled by a sheer cliff up to 200 feet high for much of its boundary.The vertical separation of this unit from the ISA affords a feeling of remoteness providing outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Topography in this unit is not varied, and much of the unit is relatively flat. The canyon system in the southeast provides recreational interest. When considered with the Instant Study Area (which surrounds it on three sides), this unit may provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are no known supplement values in this unit.

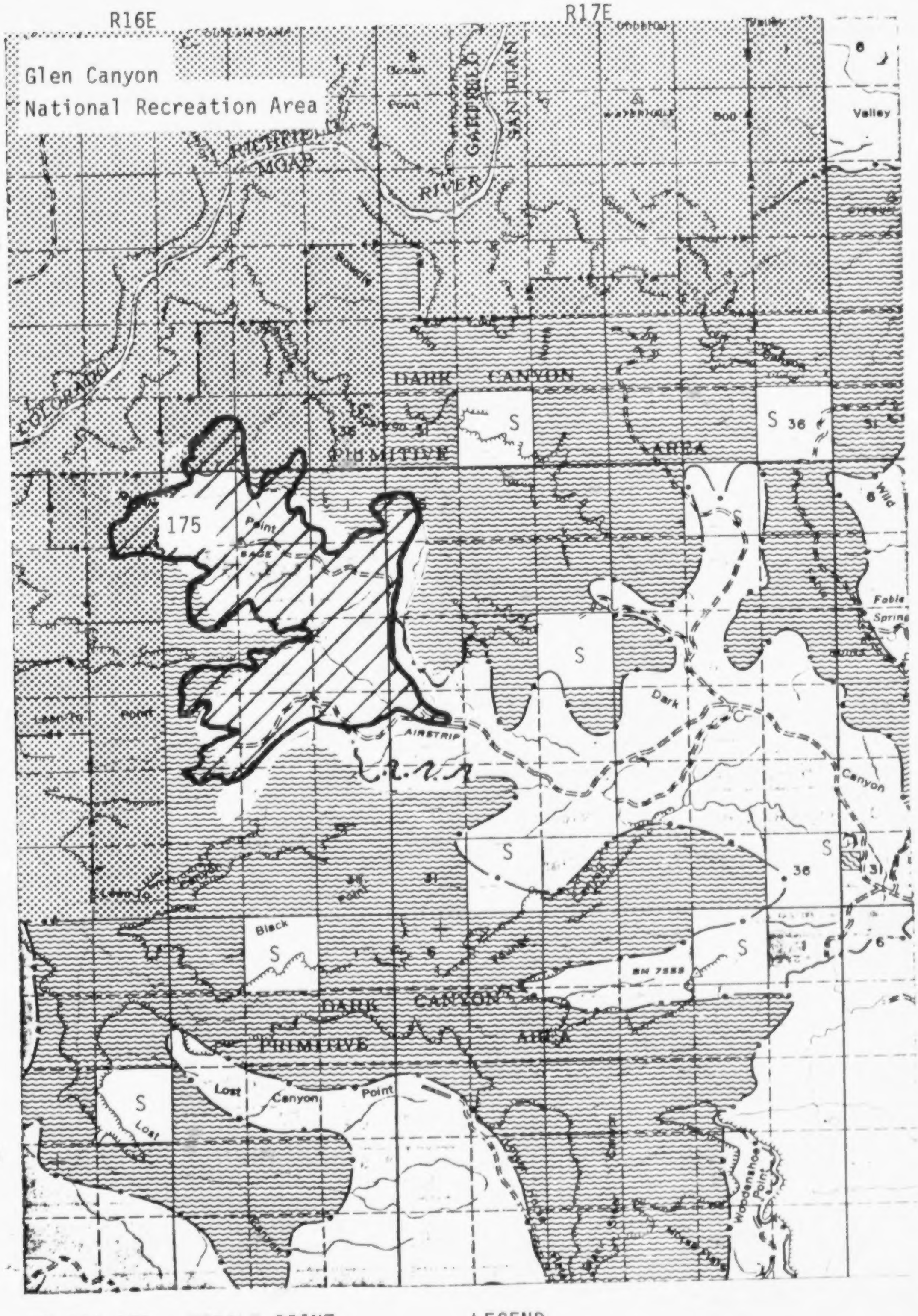
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A total of 20 comments were received for this unit from 17 individuals, two groups and two public agencies. Two were general comments favoring WSA designation. One specific comment was in favor of WSA status and seventeen were opposed.

Sixteen comments stated that the unit has roads and a portion of the unit was chained and reseeded. Three mentioned the presence of an old airstrip. Another comment stated that the roads and chaining were undergoing restoration and that moderately dense vegetative screening and the contiguous Dark Canyon ISA enhances opportunities for outstanding solitude and primitive recreation. BLM agrees that Dark Canyon ISA being contiguous enhances opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Nine suggested that solitude was less than outstanding; one mentioned generally flat topography. Five indicated that opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation were less than outstanding. Four believed that supplemental values were absent and three believed that reclamation would not be possible. Other comments addressed grazing, agricultural needs, economic consideration, hunting, minerals and multiple use. One respondent felt that contiguity to an ISA is not sufficient justification for WSA status.

4. DECISION: The original proposal shall be upheld. The 5,990 acre Middle Point WSA will be identified.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: None of the comments provides site-specific information or concerns that had not already been considered by the BLM in developing the original proposals. Comments opposing WSA designation were generally directed towards naturalness. The roads have been cherrystemmed from the WSA and the chaining is being mitigated by natural processes. The airstrip is outside of the WSA boundary. Topography of the WSA in itself does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, but when taken in conjunction with vegetative screening, outstanding opportunities occur.

Other comments pertaining to lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation were general. The BLM agrees that the area is enhanced by being contiguous to Dark Canyon ISA, although except for size and configuration the WSA must meet criteria on its own. Land use conflicts and socio-economic factors will be addressed during the study phase. Multiple use includes wilderness by definition.



UT-060-175 - MIDDLE POINT
MIDDLE POINT WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
- Dark Canyon ISA Boundary
- National Park Service Boundary

½" = 1 mile

MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-181 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: MANCOS MESA UNIT ACREAGE: 51,440

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in western San Juan County, approximately fifty miles west of Blanding, Utah. The unit is bounded on the west and north by the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA), on the east by the rim of Red Canyon and on the south by the rim of Moki Canyon. It is adjacent to the proposed Moki-Mancos Mesa wilderness area of Glen Canyon NRA (41,700 acres).

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 51,440 acres of public land managed by the BLM. Also within unit boundaries are 5,120 acres of State land.

B. NATURALNESS: Mancos Mesa is a high mesa, containing sandstone erosional formations, and large areas of wind-blown sand. The unit is cut by three major canyons and small segments of two other canyons. The canyons have sparse riparian vegetation in the moist seep and spring areas. Vegetation on the mesa tops is very sparse and low.

The southeastern portion of the unit (25%) contains numerous drill sites and approximately 25 miles of roads which were constructed after the passage of FLPMA. These are significant impacts. The rest of the unit appears substantially natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Opportunities for solitude exist within the unit; however, these are less than outstanding due to the limited natural screening present within the unit. The vegetation within the unit is low and sparse and the areas of topographic relief are chiefly restricted to the limits of the canyons.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are considered to be less than outstanding due to the limited natural screening and the lack of focal features.

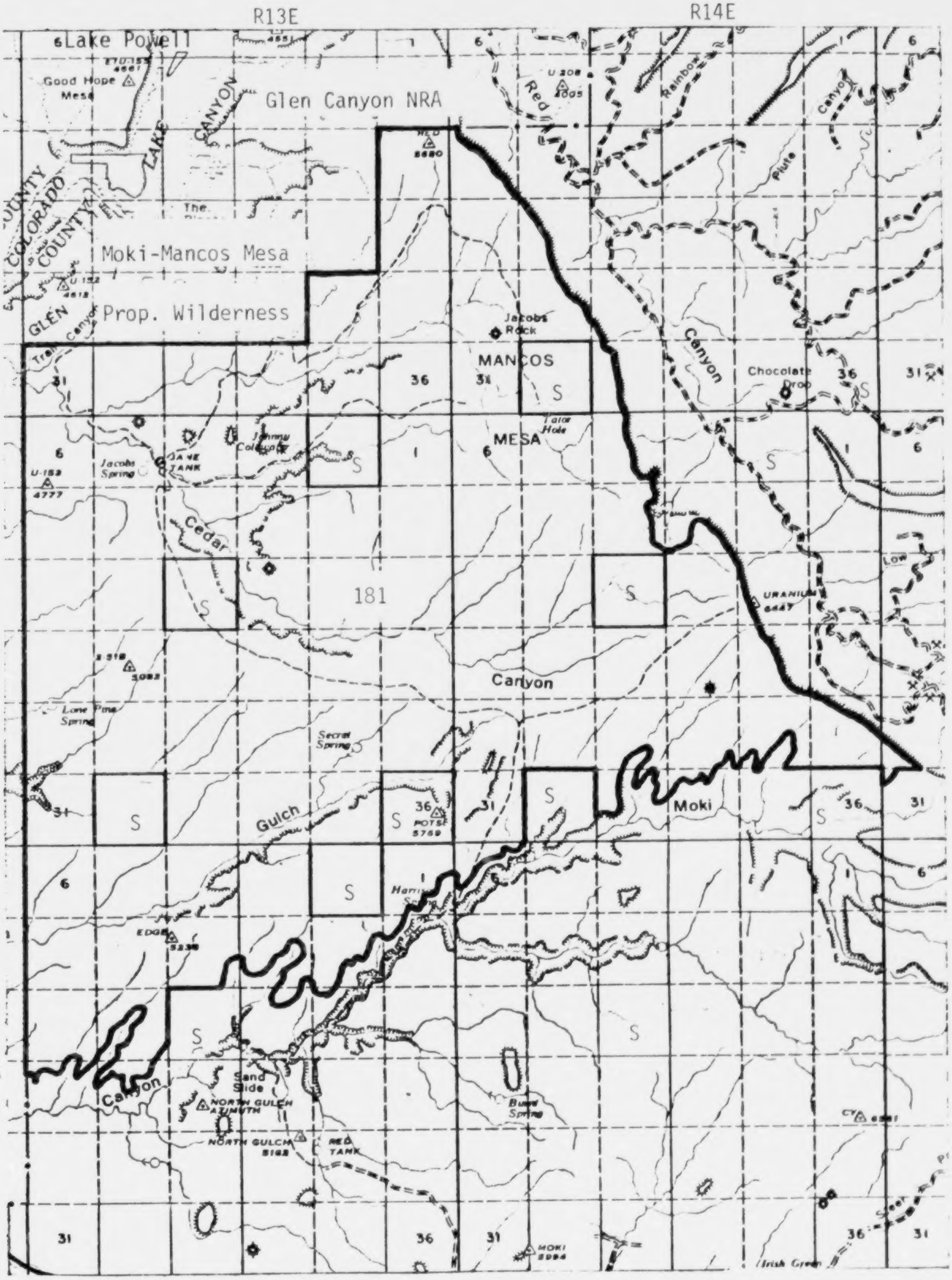
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Included as supplemental values are archeological sites, scenic values, vistas of outside areas, and wildlife.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A total of 90 comments were received for this unit from 89 individuals, 5 groups, and one government agency. The comments include 15 general, and 75 specific. Seven general comments and 72 specific comments (of which 34 were identical form letters) favored WSA designation. Three specific and 7 general comments opposed the designation, and one had no recommendation.

Among the most critical concerns identified in the specific comments were the BLM rationale for conclusions regarding outstanding opportunities for solitude, and the presence of post-FLPMA roads. Many of the respondents said that BLM was identifying characteristics in the narrative summaries that proved the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. One indicated that BLM has confused solitude with "solitary confinement". This respondent also said that the unit size and naturalness were enough to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Many respondents, including the 34 form letters, estimated the extent of natural area at 75%. As a basis for concluding that outstanding opportunities are present, many respondents cited the presence of topographic relief (some referring to the presence of 3 major canyons), configuration, vistas of surrounding areas, large size, and remoteness. A number of respondents did not believe BLM had identified post-FLPMA roads as a cause of impairment. Another opinion expressed was that the unit should be merged with the adjacent NPS Moki-Mancos Mesa wilderness proposal in Glen Canyon NRA. A number of outdoor recreation pursuits considered appropriate for the unit were mentioned, as were some supplemental values. Those opposed to WSA designation considered the area to be deficient in wilderness qualities. Respondents stated that there are 50 oil and gas leases in the area. Some also felt the post-FLPMA roads could not be rehabilitated.

4. DECISION: No WSA will be identified in this unit in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: While several respondents strongly disagreed with BLM's rationale for concluding that opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding in this unit, this conclusion was reached after careful consideration of the definition of "outstanding" given in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook. The Canyons have sparse vegetation and are fairly open in character. Opportunities here for solitude are present, but not outstanding. The open character and sparse vegetation of the mesa top which comprise the majority of the unit, also provide opportunities that are less than outstanding. The evaluation of opportunities for the solitude experience is based upon the chances for seeing other users or activities within the unit. The unit's physical characteristics and lack of focal features cause it to offer less than outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Since the post-FLPMA roads have deep cuts, through solid rock in places, their rehabilitation through natural processes or use of labor and tools is unlikely. As a result, they will remain as permanent intrusions. The presence of these roads was not the major factor in evaluating this unit's WSA potential. Although adjacent to the NPS wilderness proposal in GCNRA, Mancos Mesa is an independent BLM unit and was inventoried as such on its own merits. For these reasons, the original conclusions and the original proposal for this unit are unchanged.



UT-060-181 - MANCOS MESA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
- National Park Service Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-188 WSA ACREAGE: 11,300

UNIT NAME: PINE CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 15,180

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in San Juan County approximately 30 miles west-southwest of Blanding, Utah. The unit lies south of State Highway 95 and east of State Highway 263. The unit's south boundary is contiguous to the Grand Gulch Primitive Area, an Instant Study Area.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 15,180 acres of public land administered by the BLM. The unit is approximately 14 miles long northeast to southwest and about two miles in width.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit lies on the Grand Gulch Plateau with elevations of approximately 6500 feet in the east descending to 5200 feet in the west.

The plateau is cut by three steep walled canyons that drain southwesterly into the Grand Gulch Primitive Area. Vegetation on the benchtops is sparse, consisting of desert shrub communities with scattered pinyon-juniper. The canyon bottoms are vegetated with a shrub, pinyon-juniper mixture. The pinyon-juniper increases in density in the higher elevations in the eastern portion of the unit.

The southwest portion of the unit contains noticeable imprints of man. The majority (80%) of the unit is in a natural condition.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The plateau in the western portion of the unit provides little screening for solitude. The increased density of pinyon-juniper vegetation in the eastern portion provides a greater degree of screening, but opportunities for solitude are not outstanding. The topographic relief of the canyons in the central portion of the unit provides excellent screening. These canyons, which lead to Grand Gulch, provide seclusion and outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The three canyons that cut through the unit provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, especially since the canyons provide access routes to Grand Gulch Primitive Area. The presence of the adjacent Grand Gulch Primitive Area to the south, and plentiful water within the canyons combine to create outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

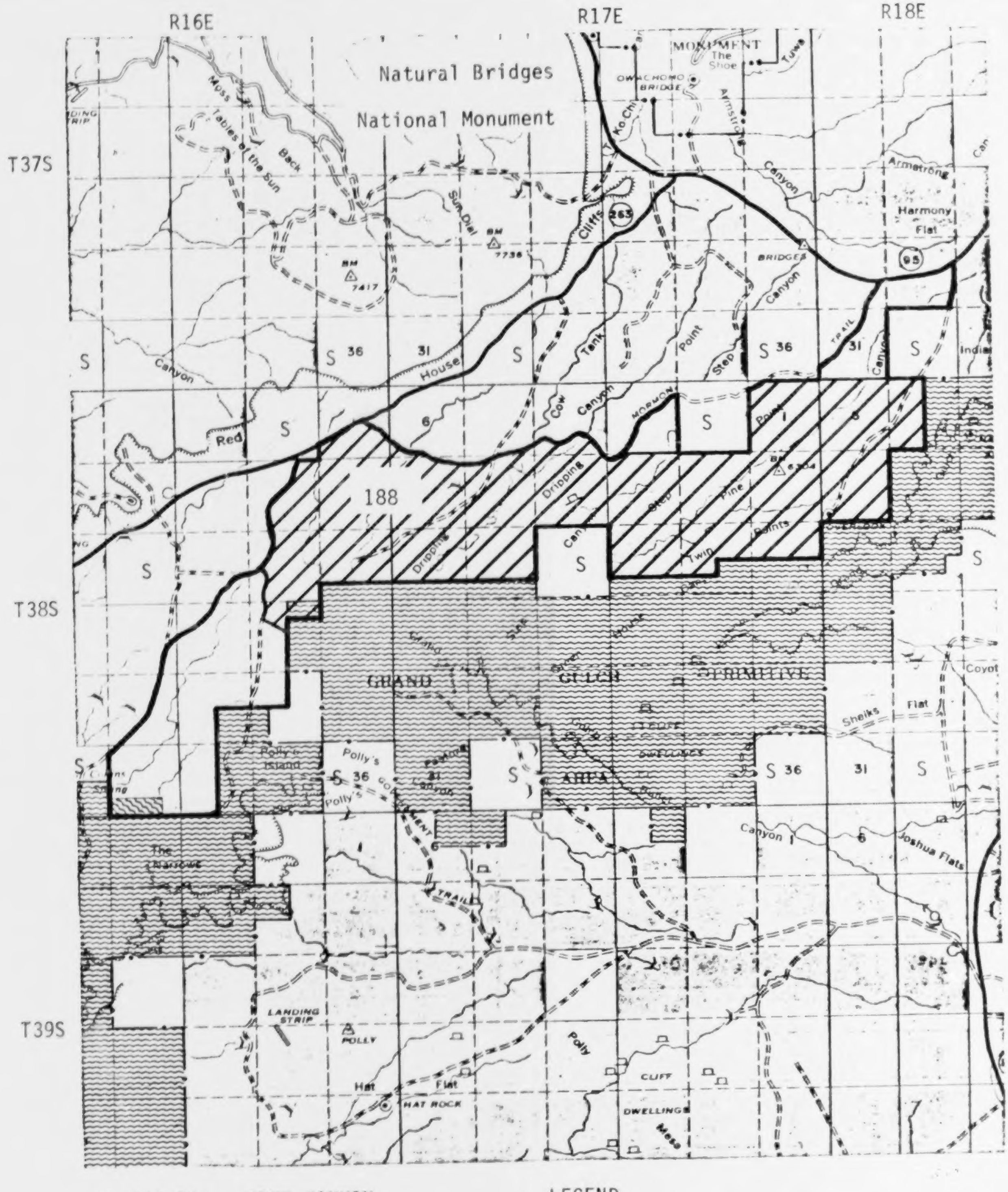
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are numerous (over 50) identified archaeological sites within the unit. Approximately one-half are in the canyons, the others are on the plateau. High scenic values also occur in the canyons.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: On this unit, 36 comments were received from 34 individuals, four groups and two public agencies; 27 were specific. Of the specific comments, 13 opposed WSA designation, 10 favored it and four gave no recommendation; nine general comments supported a WSA. Additionally, one copy of an initial inventory comment was received favoring WSA status.

Comments stated that there are roads and ways within the unit or bisecting the unit, including Class B roads and Hole-In-The-Rock Trail. Areas of cedar post cuttings, reseeded areas, a brush fence and stock ponds were stated as contributing to a loss of naturalness. Reclamation potential was judged poor. Other respondents favored the unit to be natural. Site specific features were cited by some comments as contributing to outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One comment stated the area was flat, limiting opportunities, and lacked diversity of recreation. Four comments stated that opportunities for solitude were adversely affected by traffic on Highway U-95 and Hole-In-The-Rock Trail bordering the unit. Supplemental archaeologic, scenic and geologic values were noted. Oil and gas leases and a State school section within the unit were noted, along with adjacency to an ISA.

4. DECISION: The original proposal will be implemented. The 11,300 acre Pine Canyon WSA shall be identified.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No new information was presented to warrant changing the original proposal. Roads and ways within the unit were noted during the intensive inventory. In one case, an existing way was used as the WSA boundary; another way within the WSA was judged to be substantially unnoticeable. According to County maps, no Class B roads are within the unit. The Hole-In-The-Rock Trail and U-95 are unit boundaries; as such, they are outside the unit and not considered during the inventory. Other imprints mentioned were noted and considered during the intensive inventory. The comment that the unit is relatively flat and lacking in opportunities for solitude is not borne out by field observations; lack of recreational diversity is unsupported. Other site specific comments regarding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation concurred with the original proposal. Units adjacent to an ISA must meet inventory criteria (except size and configuration). Oil and gas leasing are subject to Interim Management Policy and other regulations; leases will be further addressed during the study phase. No State lands lie within unit boundaries although one section lies between this unit and Grand Gulch ISA; State lands are not part of the wilderness inventory.



UT-060-188 - PINE CANYON
PINE CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
- Grand Gulch ISA Boundary
- National Park Service Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-191 WSA ACREAGE: 15,410

UNIT NAME: CHEESEBOX CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 27,520

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in the southwest portion of San Juan County, approximately 32 miles west of Blanding, Utah and 40 miles south of Monticello, Utah. The unit is one mile north of the Natural Bridges National Monument and is bounded on the south by State Highway 95.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 27,520 acres of public land and encloses two state sections totaling 1,280 acres.

B. NATURALNESS: Topography consists of steep-walled canyons of slickrock sandstone. Three canyons, Cheesebox, Hideout and K & L drain southwesterly to White Canyon which drains to the northwest. White Canyon is the largest in the units winding approximately eleven miles through the unit. The mesa lands above the canyon are composed of flat to rolling landforms with a southwest aspect. The Cheesebox is a small butte in the southern portion of the unit. A flat plateau, Deer Flat, lies in the eastern portion of the unit. Vegetation of White Canyon consists of riparian vegetation with scattered cottonwood trees. Very little vegetation occurs in the other three canyons because of the slickrock formations and scouring by flash floods. The tablelands are composed of scattered pinyon-juniper trees with desert shrubs.

The eastern portion of the unit contains numerous imprints of man. Chained areas contain large amounts of deadfall. There are approximately 200 bulldozed drill pads, two active mines and 16 miles of bladed road in this eastern portion. In the central portion of the unit an eight mile road extends between Cheesebox and Hideout Canyons and leads to an active uranium mine. A way extends in the northern portion of the unit for approximately 3½ miles. Two small chained areas, approximately 150 acres each, occur on bench tops in the northern portion of the unit. In the western finger of the unit, an airstrip and two maintained roads occur impair the naturalness. Seventy percent of the unit is substantially natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The topographic relief and vegetative screening of White Canyon and the topographic relief of the other three winding slickrock canyons combine to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The areas of significant human intrusions offer little opportunity for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The rugged steep-walled canyons, and the pinyon-juniper vegetated plateaus, ridges and mesas offer outstanding opportunities for recreation. The heavily impacted eastern portion of the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit has 36 recorded Anasazi Indian sites. The canyons are of geologic and scenic interest. Views of the Henry Mountains, Navajo Mountain and Elk Ridge are available from the plateau area of the unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Seventy public comments were received from 66 individuals, four groups and two public agencies; ten general and 60 specific comments. All of the general and 42 of the specific comments supported the designation of a WSA in this unit, the rest were opposed.

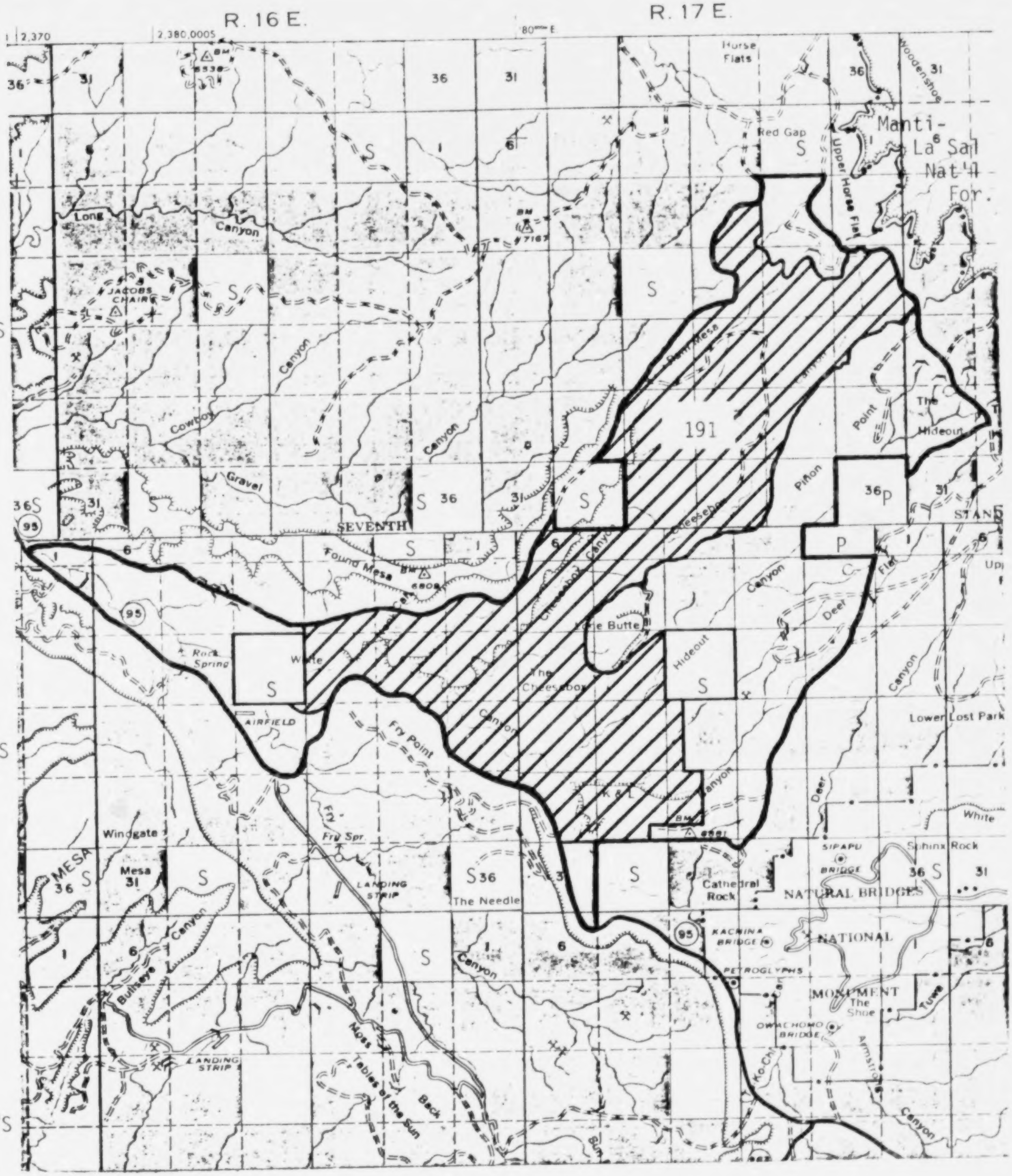
Of the specific comments favoring WSA designation, 30 were form letters, the rest were of varying format. A majority of the respondents indicated that they agreed with the original BLM proposal, but also wanted the omitted western end added to the WSA. Most dealt with the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation which were referred to as being outstanding. Topographic screening and supplemental values (presence of scenic qualities and archaeological sites) were frequently cited as being the basis for this conclusion.

The eighteen specific comments opposing WSA designation cited the presence of roads and other intrusions as impairments to the unit's naturalness. Only two of these gave specific detailed locations, listing Home Mesa, Pinyon Point and Deer Flat as impacted areas. Thirteen said that the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and two said the same for primitive and unconfined recreation. As a basis for these conclusions, respondents cited the presence of activities along Highway U-95 and mining activities that can be seen from the unit. The presence of state school sections was also mentioned.

4. DECISION: A 15,410-acre Cheesebox WSA will be identified as described in the proposed decision.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Although respondents were definite in their support or opposition, new information was not provided. Those supporting WSA designation referred to topographic screening as provided in most cases by the canyons. Those advocating the inclusion of the western end of the unit said it should be done because of its wilderness qualities and to protect archaeological values. Most of those opposing WSA identification made reference to the presence of intrusions in the unit. Almost all of these are outside of the proposed WSA. The exception is a way in the northern portion of the unit that runs from the western boundary of the WSA to the edge of Cheesebox Canyon.

No information was presented that provided evidence to change proposed decision for the WSA.



UT-060-191 - CHEESEBOX CANYON
CHEESEBOX CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
- National Park Service Bndry.
- National Forest Service Bndry.
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-194 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: HARMONY FLAT UNIT ACREAGE: 10,470

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located southeast of Natural Bridges National Monument in San Juan County, Utah, about 25 miles west of Blanding. It is on the Grand Gulch Plateau, mostly flat with shallow canyons draining west into Natural Bridges National Monument. Vegetation is dense pinyon and juniper (12-20 feet high spaced 8-15 feet apart), thinning along the canyon rims. There are a few small sagebrush flats in the southeast.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 10,470 acres of BLM-administered land. One state section (640 acres) is within the boundaries, but was not inventoried for wilderness.

B. NATURALNESS: There is evidence of human activity near the unit boundary in several areas, but over 90% of the unit appears generally natural. National Park Service projects (a well and landfill) in the northwest are substantially unnoticeable, as is a one mile long "way" in the east. A clearing bladed for a fence along the southern boundary road and an old access road to Natural Bridges National Monument in the southwest are obvious imprints, affecting less than 10% of the unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Vegetative screening is fair, but the unit is small and topography provides very limited screening. Opportunties for solitude exist in this unit, but are not outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Topography in this unit is not varied or challenging, and there are no focal features in the unit. These factors, in combination with the small size of the unit, do not indicate outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: This unit contains many archaeological sites.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A total of 48 public comments were received for this unit from 46 individuals and two public agencies. Of these, five were general comments and the remaining 43 were specific. Thirty-four of these were form letters with identical content. While all of the specific comments were in support of WSA designation for the unit, all of the general comments were opposed.

Most of the specific comments were concerned with the unit's naturalness and potential for providing opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The form letters stated that the unit is substantially unaltered by the hand of man.

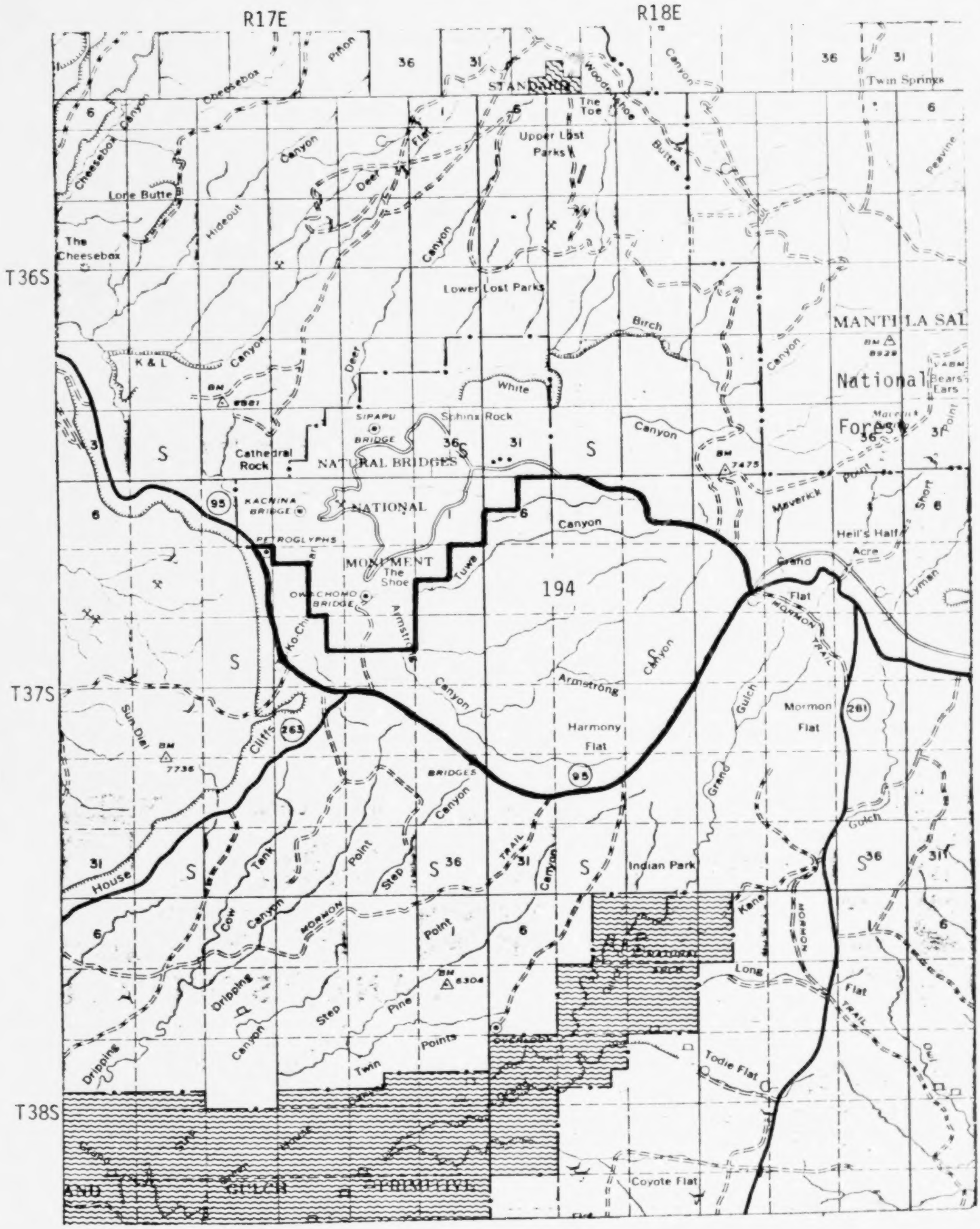
Available recreation pursuits mentioned included hiking, backpacking, archaeological and geological exploration and photography. Nearly all of the respondents indicated that supplemental values were present. Listed were scenic values, old trees, cryptogamic earth, views of surrounding countryside, archaeologic values, aquatic life and flowing water. Six considered the unit's proximity to Natural Bridges National Monument to be a factor contributing to its wilderness potential. Although the comments contained definite recommendations, no new site specific data was provided.

4. DECISION: This unit will not be identified as a WSA in accordance with the orignal proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The comments did not provide new data, or introduce considerations not previously considered by BLM in developing the original proposal for this unit. Although the unit is considered to be primarily natural in appearance, natural screening is not considered to be sufficient to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. This, and a lack of focal features conducive to appropriate outdoor recreation pursuits, diminish the unit's potential for providing opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Since the National Park Service has not recommended Natural Bridges for wilderness status, the unit's proximity to this area is irrelevant.

Since public comments did not provide sufficient information for changing the original proposal, this unit will not be identified as a WSA.



UT-060-194 - HARMONY FLAT

LEGEND

- Unit Boundary
- S - State Lands
- National Park Service Boundary
- National Forest Service Boundary

½" = 1 mile

MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-196 WSA ACREAGE: 8,730

UNIT NAME: Bullet Canyon UNIT ACREAGE: 8,730

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in southern San Juan County, 32 miles west-southwest of Blanding, Utah. The unit's north boundary is contiguous to the Grand Gulch Primitive Area. The unit is roughly eight miles long and two miles wide.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 8,730 acres of public land administered by the BLM.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit consists of a flat to rolling plateau cut by canyons and drainages flowing in a northwesterly direction to Grand Gulch, the drainages being tributaries of the gulch. The largest is Bullet Canyon, 550' deep where it enters the Grand Gulch Primitive Area. Vegetation on the plateau consists of moderately dense pinyon-juniper forest and sagebrush.

Old chainings occur on Sheiks Flats and in an area along Highway 261 on the eastern boundary. Total acreage chained is approximately 830 acres, regrowth is noticeable. A traveled way crosses the central part of the unit from south to north. The unit also contains minor imprints of three stock ponds, three developed springs, and old seismograph lines. The majority of the unit appears in a natural condition with man's imprints substantially unnoticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The pinyon-juniper vegetation of the plateau provides good screening for a number of users. The winding, steep sided canyons offer the best opportunities for solitude. Such opportunities are further enhanced by the flow of the canyons to the adjacent Grand Gulch Primitive Area. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are present within the unit.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The deep, narrow, winding canyons offer outstanding opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, and general exploration. The diversity of terrain from canyons to pinyon-juniper plateaus create an interesting setting for recreational activities. The numerous archaeological sites in the canyons and the presence of the Grand Gulch Primitive Area further enhance the opportunities available.

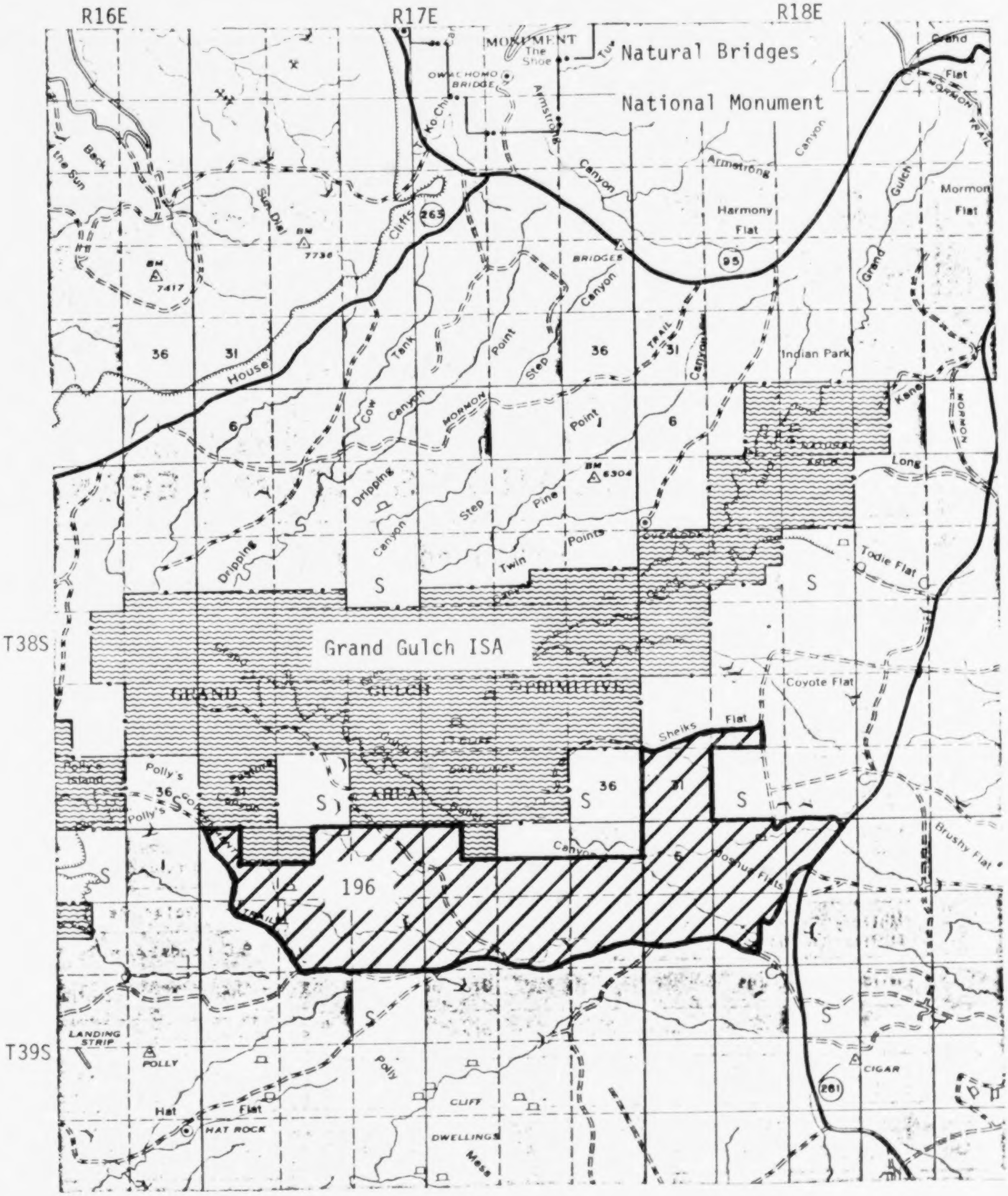
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains high cultural/historical values, evidenced by the numerous (over 100) archaeological ruin sites. Bullet Canyon's buttes, pinnacles, fins and alcoves offer excellent scenic values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: On this unit 37 comments were received from 35 individuals, four groups and two public agencies. Of the comments, Nine were general; the rest were specific. All of the general were for WSA designation and one was not. Three of the specific comments agreed with WSA designation; five gave no recommendation; the rest were opposed. Additionally a copy of an initial inventory comment was received favoring WSA status. Nine comments addressed this unit jointly with UT-060-224, UT-060-188 and UT-060-197/198.

The narrow configuration of the unit was given as detrimental to WSA status. Comments stated that there were roads within the unit; other imprints were also mentioned (seeding, fences, reservoirs) with the statement that reclamation would be impossible. Proximity to major roads was cited as adversely affecting naturalness of the unit and opportunities for solitude. Several respondents found the unit natural and possessing outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation; seven related opportunities to site-specific features. Many comments refered to supplemental values (archaeologic, scenic, ecologic, geologic, historic); one respondent indicated archaeologic values are over-rated. Comments also addressed school sections within the unit, county zoning plans adjacency to Grand Gulch ISA, oil and gas leases, and indicated the unit should be left for multiple use.

4. DECISION: The unit, 8,730 acres, will be identified as the Bullet Canyon WSA as stated in the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No new information was presented to warrant a change in the original proposal. Several comments supported original findings. The unit does have a narrow configuration, but its adjacency to Grand Gulch ISA overrides the configurational aspect. Comments noting roads in the unit in some cases referred to a way in the western part of the unit; comments addressing UT-060-224 jointly may also have been referring to the boundary road. The way was addressed during the inventory and is considered substantially unnoticeable. Other imprints referenced were also previously evaluated and found to be substantially unnoticeable. Boundary roads and other features outside the unit cannot be considered in evaluating naturalness or opportunities for solitude within a unit. Comments referencing reclamation were not supported with site specific information. Supplemental values noted concurred with the original proposal; however, these are not primary criteria. There are no State school sections within the unit. Oil and gas leasing will be subject to Interim Management Policy and other regulations. Adjacency to Grand Gulch ISA must be considered during the inventory and overrides configuration and size criteria; however, adjacent areas must meet other criteria. Land use plans of other agencies will be considered during the study phase. Wilderness is defined as a facet of multiple use.



UT-060-196 - BULLET CANYON
BULLET CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
- Grand Gulch ISA Boundary
- National Park Service Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-197/198 WSA ACREAGE: 46,800

UNIT NAME: SLICKHORN UNIT ACREAGE: 60,710

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in southern San Juan County, about 35 miles southwest of Blanding, Utah. The unit is bounded on the south by the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area's San Juan proposed wilderness (13,010 acres) and on the west by the Grand Gulch Primitive area. The unit consists of mesa toplands vegetated with pinyon-juniper and sage flats. The two major canyons, Slickhorn and Johns Canyon drain to the southwest.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 60,710 acres of public land admintered by the BLM. Seven state sections totalling 4,480 acres lie within the unit's boundary; the state sections are not inventoried for wilderness characteristics. In the initial inventory this unit was inventoried as two separate units.

B. NATURALNESS: The northwest portion and northeast corner of the unit are significantly affected by man's activities. There are roads, ways, seismograph lines, drill sites, an airstrip, corrals and several stock reservoirs in this area. In the southeast portion of the unit significant human imprints also occur; there are roads, ways, drill sites, an abandoned homestead with two structures, a corral, and an area that has been railed and sprayed. Minor imprints of a short way and a seismograph line occur along the eastern boundary road. Approximately 20% of the unit has significant human impacts; the remainder of the unit retains its natural character.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are provided by topographic screening in the long deep canyons; the pinyon-juniper vegetation of the plateau also provides good screening. The large size of the unit and the adjacent Grand Gulch Primitive Area and Glen Canyon NRA wilderness proposal further enhance the opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The variety of terrain, from forested plateaus to deep, winding, slickrock canyons, provides outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The numerous opportunities for exploration and the terrain provide a variety of challenges to the hiker.

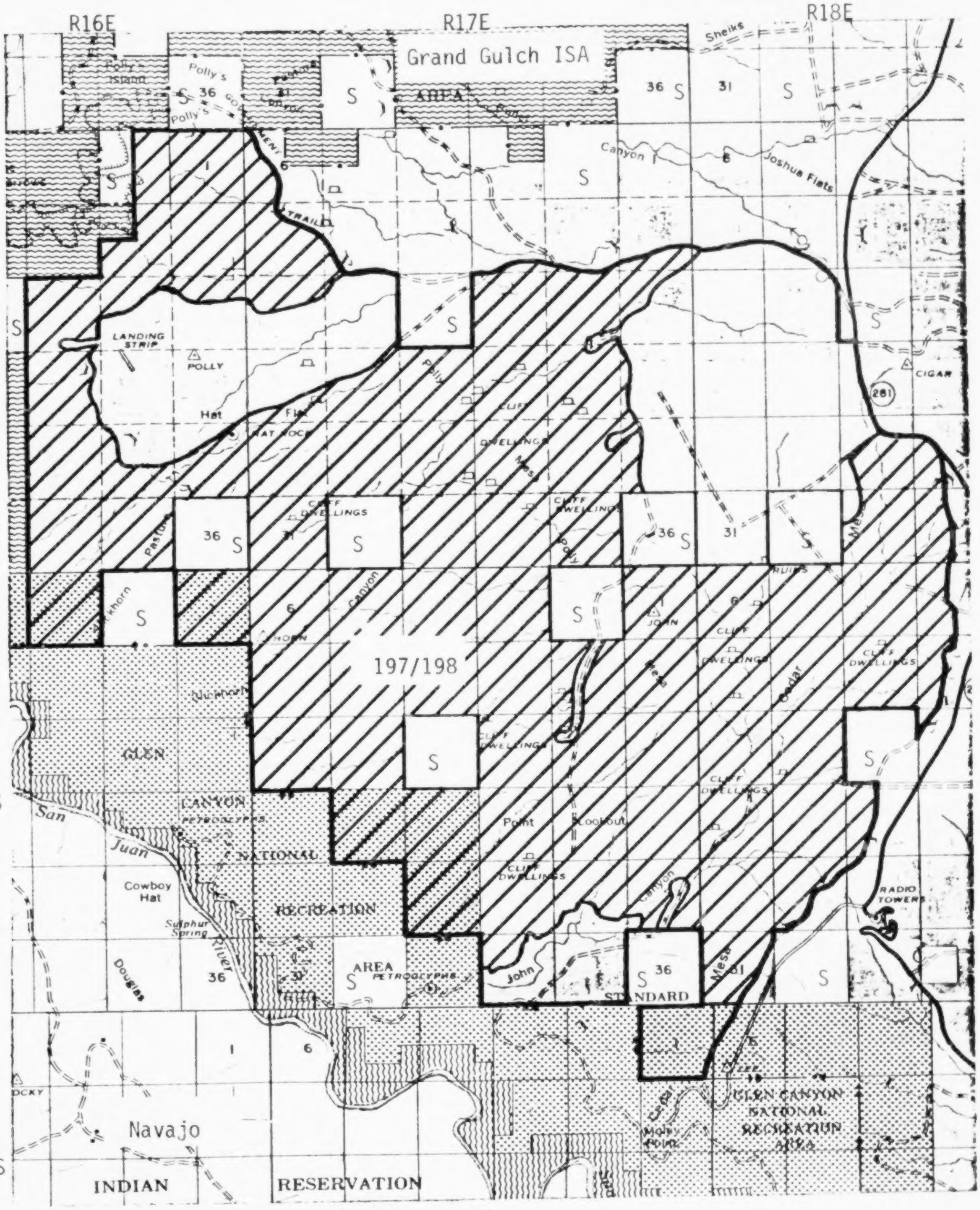
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit offers archaeologic, geologic, scenic and historic values.

3. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: On this unit 44 comments were received from 45 individuals, four groups and two public agencies. This included 34 specific comments with 19 favoring WSA status, 14 opposing and one giving no recommendation. Ten general comments supported WSA status. Additionally two copies of initial inventory comments were received.

Seven respondents favored a 60,000 acre WSA; others concurred with the original proposal (46,000 acres). Several respondents referenced roads within the unit or splitting the unit. Fences, reservoirs, developed springs, troughs, seismograph lines, corrals, an abandoned landings strip, campsites and litter were mentioned as detracting from the naturalness of the unit. Other respondents felt the majority of the unit to be substantially natural. Reclamation potential was variously judged to be impossible, good, or unnecessary. Five comments suggested there were no opportunities for solitude, with one referencing traffic noise from highway U-261. Several felt opportunities for solitude were outstanding, with several providing site-specific rationale. Three respondents felt there were no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation; 14 felt opportunities were outstanding, referencing diverse and challenging terrain, climbing, hiking, backpacking and swimming. Supplemental values mentioned included archaeologic, historic, scenic, and ecologic; one comment stated supplemental values were not unique. Adjacency to the Grand Gulch ISA was mentioned both pro and con WSA designation, with the observation that a WSA should not be designated merely because the unit is adjacent. Comments also addressed range and agricultural conflicts, oil and gas leases, Navajo cultural activities, firewood harvesting, tourism, County agricultural zoning and school sections.

4. DECISION: The original proposal shall be implemented to identify a 46,800 acre Slickhorn Canyon WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: None of the comments furnished new information which would alter the original proposal. Comments supporting a 60,000 acre WSA did not give boundary information or a rationale. Roads within the unit were noted during the inventory and excluded from the WSA. A road (originally thought to separate UT-060-197 from 198) has been "cherrystemmed" within the WSA; this is in accordance with OAD 78-61, Change 2. Other imprints mentioned either referenced items evaluated during the intensive inventory or were not location-specific. Statements regarding reclamation potential were not supported by site-specific data. Statements regarding lack of opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation were not supported; comments regarding the presence of these opportunities concurred with the original proposal. Factors outside the unit (traffic noise) cannot be considered in the inventory. Supplemental values concur with the original findings. Adjacency to Grand Gulch ISA has been noted; however, with the exception of size and configuration, the unit must meet other primary criteria. Land use plans of other agencies, land use conflicts and socio-economic factors will be considered during the study phase. The presence of three State sections within WSA boundaries has been noted; however, State lands are not part of the WSA and are not evaluated for wilderness characteristics.



UT-060-197/UT-060-198 - SLICKHORN CANYON
SLICKHORN CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
- Grand Gulch ISA Boundary
- National Park Service Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-201 — WSA ACREAGE: 34,740

UNIT NAME: ROAD CANYON — UNIT ACREAGE: 76,170

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies on the Grand Gulch Plateau in the south-central portion of San Juan County, Utah. The plateau is cut by two major canyon drainages, Lime Creek and Road Canyons. Predominant vegetation is pinyon-juniper and sagebrush; riparian vegetation in the canyon bottoms. The southern portion of the unit is a low area known as the Valley of the Gods and the Comb Wash area. It is flat to rolling with vegetation consisting of sparse desert shrub communities.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 76,170 acres of public land managed by the BLM. Within the boundaries of the unit lie 5,040 acres of state land that are not being inventoried for wilderness characteristics.

B. NATURALNESS: The major impact is created by a six mile long road that has three spur roads extending to state sections in the central portion of the unit. On a bench parallel and south of Lime Creek Canyon a road extends for 6½ miles. This road was constructed after the passage of FLPMA and cannot be considered. Other imprints occur in the northwest corner of the unit and adjacent to the boundary roads; the overall impact not being significant. Approximately 95% of the unit remains in a natural condition; the roads in the north and north-central portion create the strongest impacts.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are present within the canyon drainages of the unit. The canyons provide extensive topographic and vegetative screening. The open character of the southern and eastern portions of the unit does not provide opportunities for solitude. The plateau of the north-central portion, with its pinyon-juniper vegetation, provides a degree of screening with opportunities for solitude not being outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The canyons and their tributaries offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The meandering course, talus slopes, vertical sandstone walls, and various erosional features provide a challenging and scenic setting for hiking and exploration. The pinyon-juniper vegetation and sandstone formations of the plateau offer additional recreational opportunities. Recreational opportunities are limited in the south and eastern portions of the unit and are not considered to be outstanding.

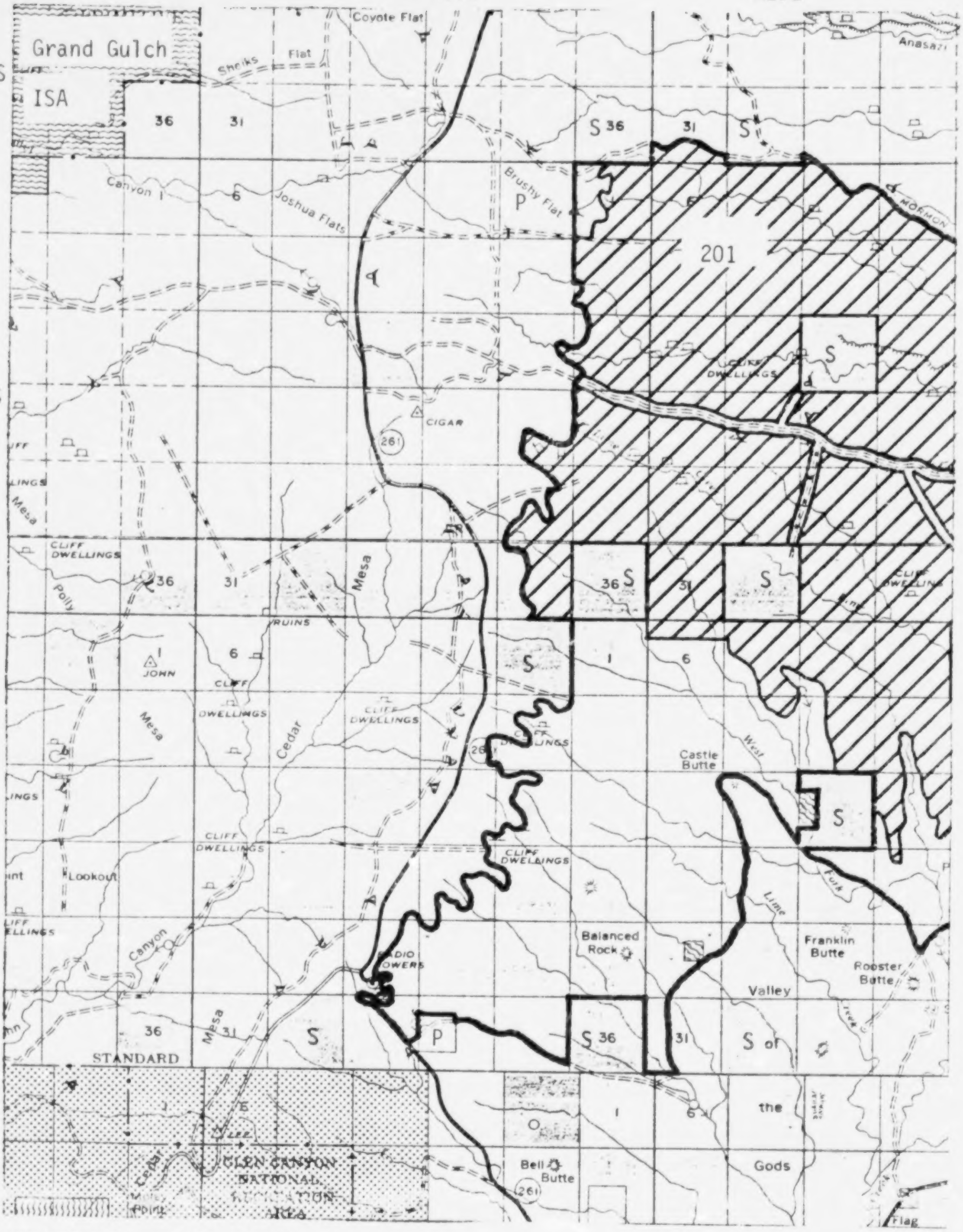
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit has archaeological, biological and scenic values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A total of 36 comments were received from 35 individuals, four groups and two public agencies. Ten specific and ten general comments favored WSA designation; one specific comment gave no recommendation.

Seven comments supported a 50,000 acre WSA; others supported the original proposal. Comments referenced roads that penetrate the unit, including comments that the cherrystemmed road within the WSA proposal violates wilderness criteria. Several comments referenced a loss of naturalness in the unit due to developed springs, reservoirs, fencing, corrals, access roads, campsites, litter, and seismograph lines; one comment stated that part of the unit below the cliffline had lost naturalness. Reclamation was judged impossible by three; possible by one; possible in certain areas by one; and not necessary by one. Several comments suggested the unit possessed naturalness. Site specific factors were referenced as providing outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Others felt opportunities were lacking. Some comments referenced traffic noise and heavy use of nearby highways as detracting from solitude. Specific recreational opportunities were mentioned for hiking, backpacking, climbing, horseback riding, photography, and sightseeing. Supplemental archaeologic, scenic, ecologic and geologic values, including Cigarette Springs Cave, were mentioned. Oil and gas leases, leasing regulations, reseeding potential, agricultural uses, inclusion of State school lands, agricultural zoning by County, effects on Navajo cultural activities and firewood harvesting, effects on tourist trade, fire management, and educational possibilities were also mentioned.

4. DECISION: The original proposal shall be implemented to identify a 34,740 acre Road Canyon WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Comments provided no new information to warrant changing the original proposal. Comments supporting a 50,000 acre WSA proposal were not substantiated with boundaries or other specific information. Comments regarding loss of naturalness either were not specific or referenced imprints previously considered by the inventory process. Cherrystemming used in this unit is a valid application of OAD 78-61, Change 3. A post-FLPMA road does exist in this WSA; however, this imprint cannot be considered in the inventory phase. Site-specific comments referencing solitude, primitive recreation and supplemental values supported the original proposal. Comments referring to lack of opportunities were generally not supported; factors such as highway use outside unit boundaries cannot be considered. Oil and gas leasing and fire management within WSA's are governed by Interim Management Policy and other government regulations; existing "leasing" will be considered during the study phase. Other potential land users will be considered during the study phase, as will socio-economic considerations. State lands within unit boundaries were noted during the inventory process; however, these are not part of the WSA and are not studied for wilderness values.

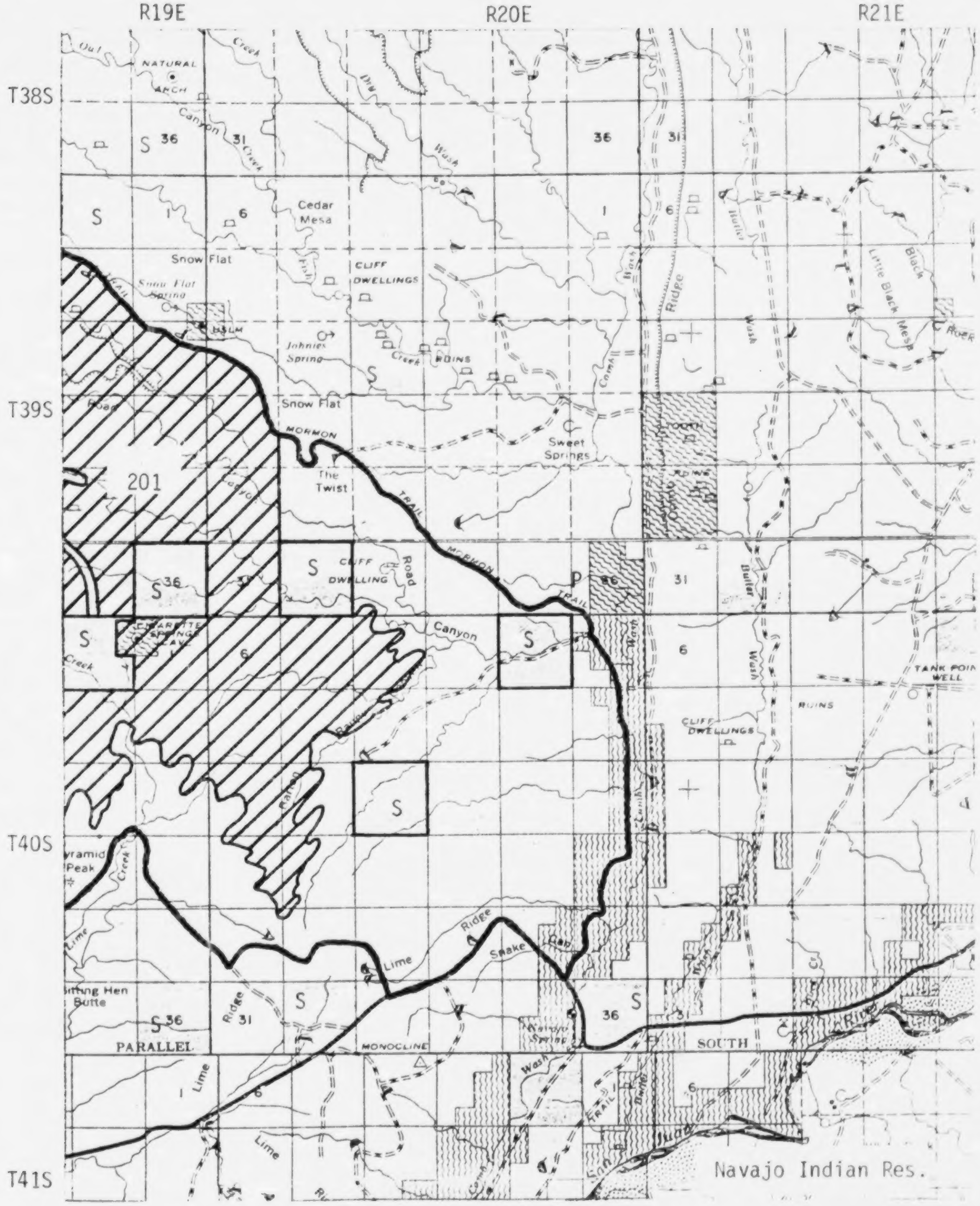


UT-060-201 - ROAD CANYON
(Sheet 1 of 2 - West Half)
ROAD CANYON WSA

LEGEND

- Unit Boundary
- WSA
- S - State Lands
- P - Private Lands
- Grand Gulch ISA Boundary
- National Park Service Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80



UT-060-201 - ROAD CANYON
(Sheet 2 of 2 - East Half)
ROAD CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-204 WSA ACREAGE: 48,530

UNIT NAME: FISH CREEK UNIT ACREAGE: 52,050

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located 29 miles southwest of Monticello, Utah. The unit lies on the Grand Gulch Plateau and is deeply dissected by three major canyons, Dry Wash, Fish Creek, and Owl Creek. The plateau is flat to gently rolling and is vegetated with pinyon-juniper mixed with a sagebrush-desert shrub community. The canyons drain to the southeast and reach a confluence in the southeast lowlands of the unit.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 52,050 acres of public land managed by the BLM. Within the boundaries are 3,240 acres of state land which are not being inventoried for wilderness characteristics.

B. NATURALNESS: Evidence of human activity within the unit occurs primarily in the northeast portion of the unit with 910 acres of chaining, six miles of ways, 3½ miles of seismograph line, 3½ miles of roads, and a large fence constructed of bulldozed pinyon-juniper, extending for 3½ miles into the unit. These imprints in the northeast portion noticeably impair the naturalness in this portion. Other imprints of man (ways and drill pads) are scattered around the perimeter of the unit, but do not create a significant impact on the naturalness of the unit. Most of the unit remains in its natural state, 3,520 acres in the northeastern portion of the unit have been affected by man's activities.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The steep walls, tributaries and lush vegetation of Fish and Owl Canyons offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Dry Wash Canyon, which has a differing character with its wide bottom and benched slickrock walls, also offers outstanding solitude to users. The plateau above the canyons provides pinyon-juniper screening to compliment the solitude found in the canyon bottoms. The northeast portion of the unit, with its obvious imprints of man, does not provide a setting for outstanding solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The miles of deep, rugged meandering canyons within the unit offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The varied landforms and character of the canyons with their diversity in vegetation provides differing settings for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The northeast corner of the unit with its noticeable human imprints does not offer outstanding opportunities for recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit has archaeological, geological, scenic, scientific, and educational values. The rock formations offer scenic and geologic values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A total of 38 comments were received for this unit from 36 individuals, four groups and two public agencies. Nine of the comments were general, the remaining 29 were specific. All of the general and eighteen of the specific comments supported WSA designation, while the remaining comments were opposed to WSA designation.

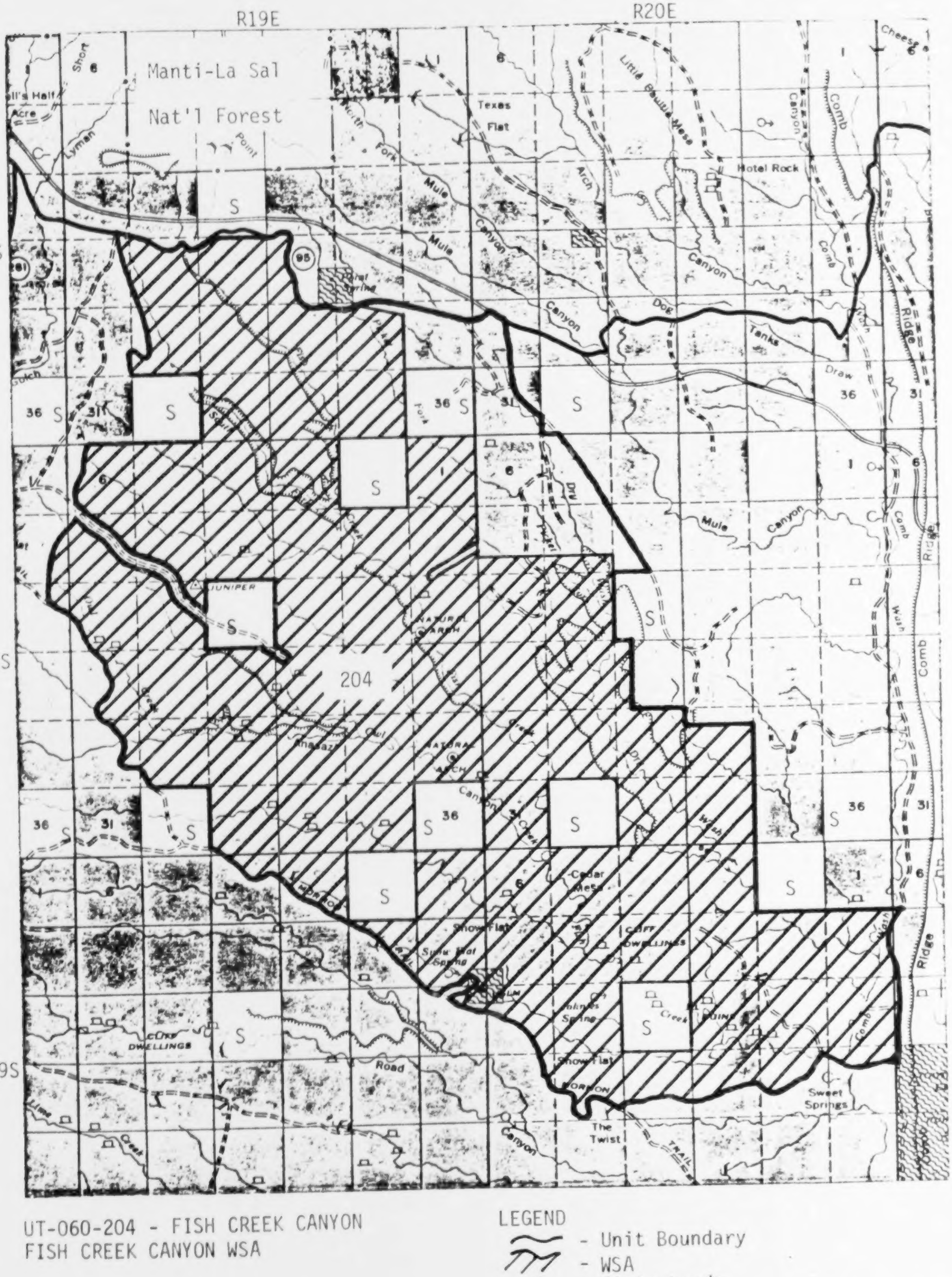
The specific comments for WSA designation contended the unit meets wilderness criteria. Most indicated the unit, or part of it, is natural and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Mentioned as a basis for conclusions were the excellent natural screening afforded by the topography and vegetation. Several listed specific outdoor recreation pursuits that were judged to be particularly suited to the area. Included were climbing, hiking and backpacking. Many stated that supplemental values were present. Most frequently mentioned were archaeological, geological and scenic values.

All 13 specific comments opposed to WSA designation noted the presence of roads. The majority (8) estimated the road mileage to be 15 miles, although no locations were specified for this mileage. Several were opposed to the practice of "cherrystemming" roads. Most of the respondents indicated that they didn't feel the unit is natural, or provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. In support of their conclusions, they cited the presence of roads, stock reservoirs, seeding areas, and a long brush fence. Also mentioned were noises from Highway U-95. Other concerns mentioned included the presence of 23 oil and gas leases and the area is identified as agricultural land on the county zoning plan.

4. DECISION: In accordance with the original proposal, the proposed 48,530 acre Fish and Owl Creek WSA will be identified.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All of the respondents were quite definite in their support or opposition to WSA designation for this unit; however, neither provided information relevant to wilderness evaluation that had not previously been considered by BLM. A number of those supporting the original proposal to designate a WSA in the unit, made reference to the presence of unit characteristics that relate to the criteria for wilderness. Those opposed cited the presence of impairments that would disqualify the unit for WSA designation. Most of the intrusions referred to are actually located outside of the proposed WSA. Although the practice of "cherrystemming" roads has been objected to, it is prescribed by OAD 78-61, change 2 and must be used in cases where dead end roads penetrate WSA's.

Since none of the comments introduced specific information that was not previously considered, or would change the original conclusions, the original proposal for this unit is considered to be valid and appropriate.



UT-060-204 - FISH CREEK CANYON
FISH CREEK CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
- National Forest Service Bndry.

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO: UT-060-205A WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: ARCH CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 7,500

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in the south-central portion of San Juan County approximately 30 miles southwest of Monticello, Utah. The unit has a very irregular configuration narrowing to a one-quarter mile width in the central portion. The unit is bisected by Arch Canyon which drains from the northwest to the southeast. Riparian vegetation occurs in the canyon bottoms; scattered pinyon-juniper occupy the talus slopes and is the dominant vegetation on the tablelands. Ponderosa pine occurs in the upper reaches of the canyon.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 7,500 acres of BLM-administered land. There are no State or private lands within the unit boundaries.

B. NATURALNESS: Arch Canyon has a way seven miles long which meanders the length of the canyon. An eight foot high chain-link fence surrounds the Arch Canyon ruin and alcove. A four-strand barbed wire drift fence crosses the mouth of Arch Canyon. Along the eastern boundary four short ways enter the unit. A short road leads to a primitive campsite. Along the south boundary is a short way, a fence, and seismograph line. The western boundary has an 850 acre chaining within the unit. A stock pond, drill pad and three ways lie within the chainings. Imprints of man are scattered throughout the unit, particularly along the perimeter. The chainings are revegetating to a natural condition, and the way along the bottom of Arch Canyon creates a minor impact. Man's imprints are substantially unnoticeable. The unit remains in its natural condition.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The configuration of this unit limits its potential for solitude. A State section lies across Arch Canyon, the principal topographic feature of the unit. Although the topography in this canyon provides good screening, the intruding State section divides it, leaving only two short segments of the canyon under BLM management. Natural screening is found in the flats to the east and south that make up the rest of the unit, but is less than outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The flat, open terrain in the south and east of Arch Canyon provides very limited opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The opportunities in Arch Canyon are limited by the short segments of the canyon remaining on either side of the intruding State section.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains archaeologic and geologic values. There are exposed sandstone reefs and spires and large rock formations. The three large sandstone arches are prominent features of Arch Canyon, but are outside of the unit boundary.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Of 64 public comments received for this unit, 58 were specific and six were general. The comments were from 62 individuals, three groups and one public agency. All but one of the specific comments were opposed to the proposal and favored WSA designation. Two of the general comments were also in favor of WSA designation, while four were opposed.

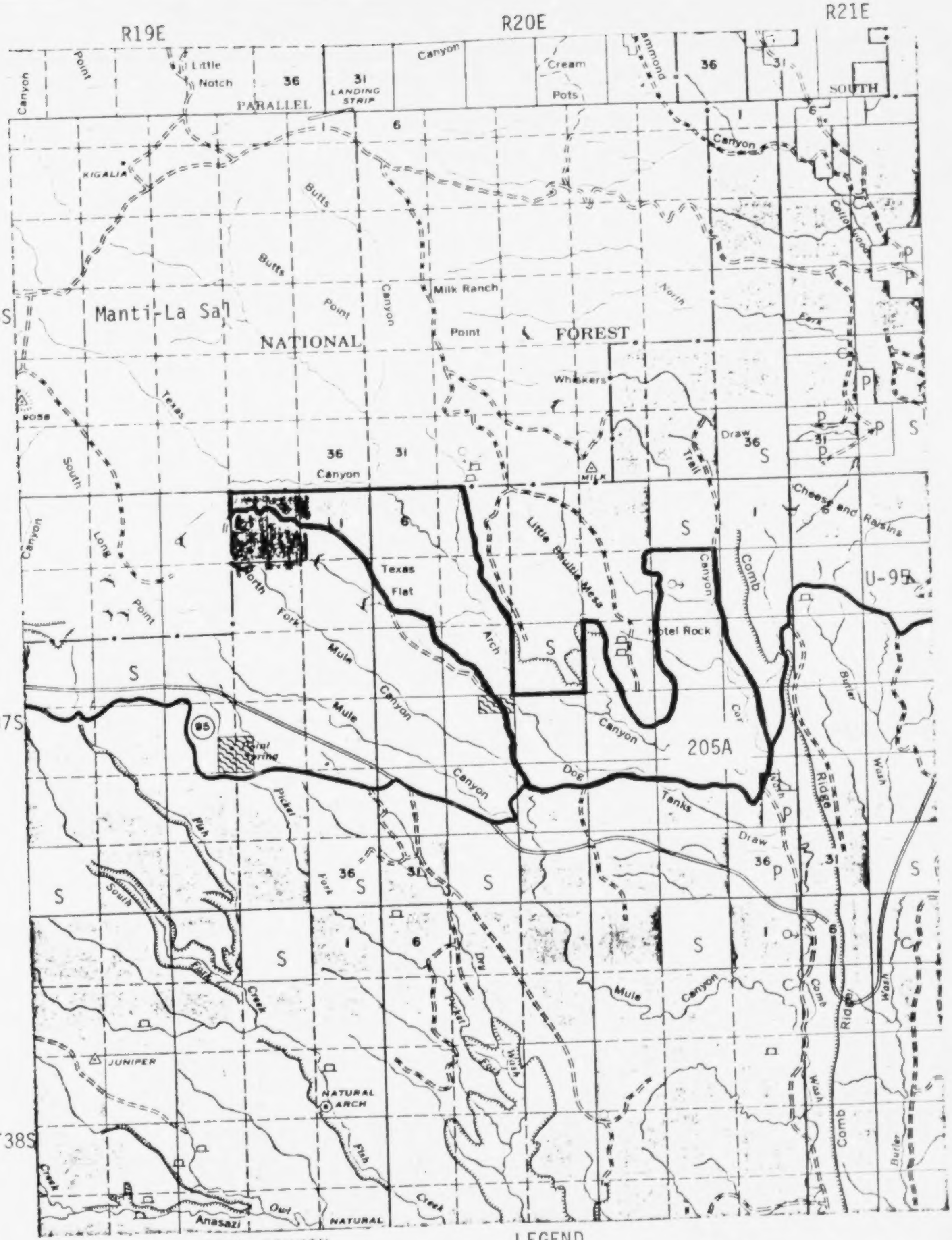
Of those favoring WSA designation, thirteen said the unit is natural; while most respondents indicated that it provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation. Many cited topographic screening as a contributive factor in the availability of these opportunities and a variety of outdoor recreation pursuits were listed. Nearly all mentioned the presence of supplemental values, archaeologic and scenic being the most frequently mentioned. Thirty-three of these responses were form letters with identical content.

The specific comment supporting the proposal did so on the basis that the way up Arch Canyon seriously detracts from the unit's naturalness.

4. DECISION: The proposal for this unit will be implemented and no WSA will be identified.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: None of the comments provided new site-specific information or addressed concerns that had not already been identified and evaluated by BLM in preparing the original proposal. Although most of the comments support a WSA designated in this unit, none provided a basis for changing the original proposal.

Originally, it was concluded that the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation were limited because of the units configuration. Because of its principal feature, Arch Canyon is fragmented by a section of State land. These opportunities are also diminished by the inadequacy of the natural screening provided by a significant part of the unit. No data was presented that refutes the original conclusion that the unit's potential for providing opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation is less than outstanding.



UT-060-205A - ARCH CANYON

LEGEND

- Unit Boundary
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands
- National Forest Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-205B WSA ACREAGE: 5,320

UNIT NAME: MULE CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 5,600

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in the south-central portion of San Juan County, approximately 32 miles southwest of Monticello, Utah. The plateau of the unit is cut by two forks of Mule Canyon that drain to the southeast. The tablelands are flat to gently rolling with exposed slickrock. Vegetation of the table-land consists of pinyon-juniper. Vegetation in the lower canyons consists of scattered pinyon-juniper, cottonwood, buffalo berry, yucca, Douglas fir, gamble oak and Ponderosa pine.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: An error was made in computing the acreage of the original unit 205. During the intensive inventory a road was discovered on Texas Flat which divides the unit 205 into two units which are now 205A Arch Canyon and 205B Mule Canyon. Accurate measuring during the intensive inventory determined the following acreages in the two resulting units; 205A, 7,500 acres; 205B, 5,600 acres.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the unit is in a natural condition; along the north boundary 280 acres have been chained and seeded with Crested wheatgrass in 1955. There is one earthen dam stockpond in the chained area. The area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The pinyon-juniper forested tablelands and the deep, winding north and south forks of Mule Canyon with lush vegetation provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The deep, narrow, winding canyons offer opportunities for hiking and exploration. The mesa tops provide moderate forest cover and offer little restriction to movement. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

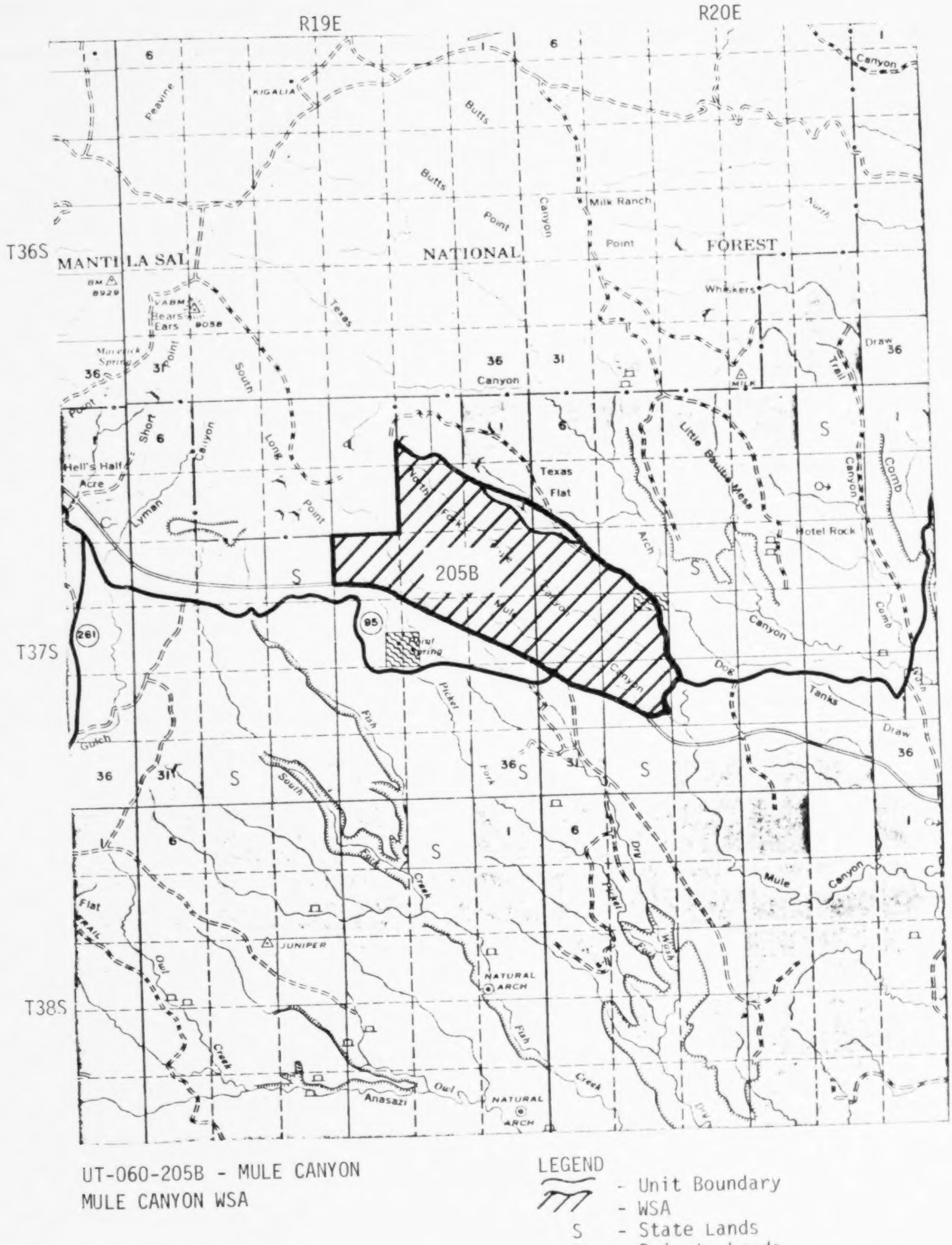
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit has archaeologic and geologic values.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A total of 22 comments were received for this unit from 18 individuals, three groups and one public agency. One general comment was received which favored WSA designation. Specific comments numbered 21; nine favored WSA status and 13 did not. Additionally a copy of an initial inventory comment was received; this information was already incorporated during the initial inventory and was not further considered. Four comments questioned the size and narrowness of the proposed WSA.

Comments pertaining to naturalness were general and gave no specific information except to state the area is natural, has topographic relief and very few intrusions. Opposing statements listed non-uniqueness, adjacent chained area, litter and campsites as impairments to the unit. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation listed non-tangible terms such as superb, unsurpassed, and no opportunities. Hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, photography, nature study and other wilderness experiences were listed as possible outstanding primitive recreational activities; another comment stated no opportunities were present. Supplemental values listed archaeology, geology, scenery, wildlife habitat and the coloration of the canyon walls. One statement said no amount of hand labor can erase the imprints. Others noted that reclamation needed is very minor. Statements on oil and gas leases, sights and sounds of Highway U-95, County agricultural zoning and agricultural conflicts were listed.

4. DECISION: The 5,320 acre Mule Canyon WSA is identified for study as identified in the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No new site-specific information was received that would change the original conclusion. The WSA meets size requirements; vertical separation afforded by the canyons overcomes the narrow configuration. Those comments pertaining to outside "sights and sounds" of Highway U-95 and adjacent chainings are not considered in accordance with OAD 78-61, Change 3. Respondents gave no documentation as to the location or extent of other impairments or reclamation potential. Comments regarding opportunities for solitude were not site-specific. Comments listing recreational opportunities supported the original proposal; comments regarding lack of these opportunities were not substantiated. Supplemental values listed exist within the unit. Oil and gas leases are covered by Interim Management Policy and other regulations; leases will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review process. Zoning plans of other agencies and land use conflicts will also be addressed during the study phase.



UT-060-205B - MULE CANYON
MULE CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
P - Private Lands
- National Forest Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-224 WSA ACREAGE: 3,070

UNIT NAME: SHEIKS FLAT UNIT ACREAGE: 3,070

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is located east of Grand Gulch Primitive Area (GGPA), an Instant Study Area, which forms its western boundary. It is west of State Highway 261, 24 miles north of Mexican Hat in San Juan County, Utah. The entire unit is flat plateau top with a few very shallow drainages. Vegetation is pinyon and juniper (10' - 20' spacing), thinner around the sage flats which cover 20% of the unit.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 3,070 acres, all administered by BLM.

B. NATURALNESS: Five hundred acres along the southern boundary have been chained, although sage and grasses have since grown in the area. One road and a seismograph line (each about ½ mile long) enter from the southern boundary road, and a way passes through the unit for one mile in the southwest. The way and seismograph line are barely noticeable and the road is noticeable only from within 100 to 200 feet. Most of this unit (about 2,500) acres) appears generally natural.

D. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Topography provides very little screening through the unit. In most of the unit, vegetation provides good screening offering outstanding opportunities for solitude in conjunction with the Instant Study Area to the northwest.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: This unit is very flat and has few topographic features. It does provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its contiguous boundary with Grand Gulch Primitive Area.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are supplemental values associated with archaeological ruins in the area. There are 43 known ruin sites in this small unit.

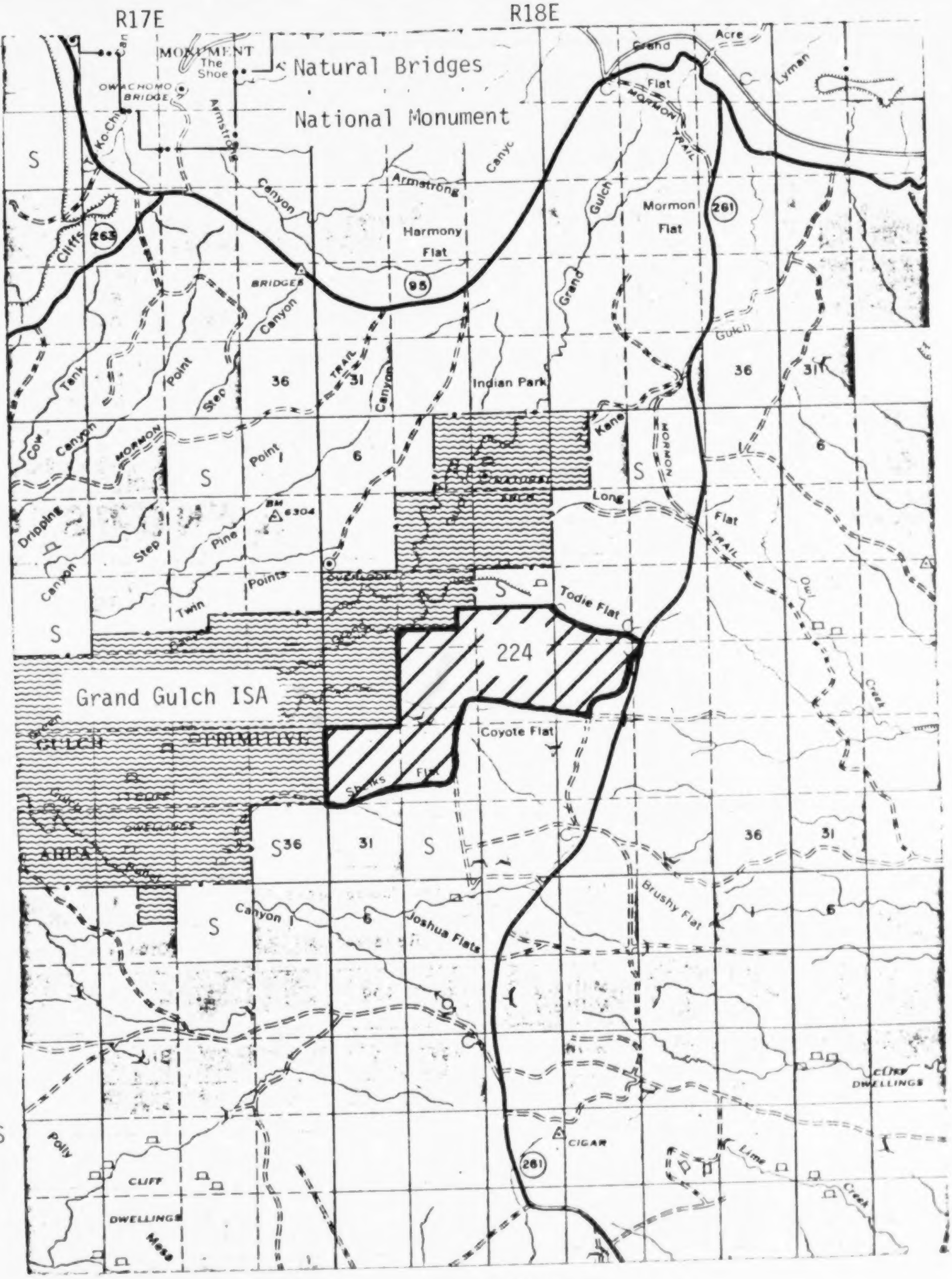
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A total of 20 comments were received for this unit from 16 individuals, three groups and two government agencies. Of 19 the specific comments, five favored WSA designation and 14 did not. One general comments were in favor of WSA designation. Nine comments referenced this unit jointly with UT-060-196.

Comments opposing naturalness stated that there were one to four roads within the unit and a road completely through the area. Ten comments stated that the unit has been railed and reseeded. Traversing by man and vehicles, as well as a fence, were also listed as impairments. Reclamation potential was stated as being impossible. Other comments agreed the unit was substantially natural, referencing canyons and pour-offs. Some comments stated that there are excellent opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Other comments stated that no opportunities exist. The narrow configuration of the unit was referenced as adversely affecting opportunities for solitude. The adjacency to Grand Gulch ISA was mentioned as a plus for WSA designation; another comment stated the unit should not be a WSA merely because it is adjacent to an ISA. Archaeologic, scenic, geologic and historic supplemental values were listed. Respondents also commented on oil and gas leases, proposed agricultural zoning by San Juan County, and State lands within the unit.

4. DECISION: The 3,070 acre Sheik's Flat WSA is identified for study as identified in the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Comments referencing both this unit and UT-060-196 may have been referring to the road separating the two units. Other intruding roads mentioned are ways under the criteria of the Wilderness Inventory Handbook. The fence is located outside the unit boundary. The railed and seeded areas have grown back to a substantially unnoticeable condition. The canyons and pour-offs are located outside of the unit boundary. Comments opposing outstanding opportunities gave no reasons for their statements. The narrow configuration of the WSA is overridden by its adjacency to the Grand Gulch ISA; except for size and configuration the WSA must meet all criteria on it's own merits. Supplemental values listed exist within the WSA. Oil and gas leasing are covered by the Interim Management Policy. Leasing, land use conflicts, and land use plans of other agencies will be addressed during the study phase. There are no State lands within the WSA; one State section lies between the WSA and Grand Gulch ISA, but it is not part of either and will not be evaluated for wilderness potential.

No site-specific information was provided which had not been considered by the BLM in preparing the original proposed decision.



UT-060-224 - SHIEKS FLAT
SHIEKS FLAT WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Lands
- Grand Gulch ISA Boundary
- National Park Service Bndry.

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-227/CO-030-265A — WSA ACREAGE: 6,580 (Utah), 11,900 Total

UNIT NAME: SQUAW AND PAPOOSE CANYONS — UNIT ACREAGE: 9,670 (Utah), 14,990 Total

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit straddles the Utah-Colorado state line. Of the 14,990 acres, 5,320 acres lie in Colorado and 9,670 acres in Utah. Colorado's unit number is CO-030-265A.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 11,900 acres of BLM-administered lands and 640 acres of state land (Utah). The west border is composed of private and non-BLM administered lands, the south border is composed of a road and non-BLM lands.

B. NATURALNESS: About 17% of the Utah portion of the unit has lost its natural character due to a chaining containing 1,230 acres in the west portion of the unit and a 180 acre chaining in the southeast. There is also a road system in the north portion of the unit which is about two miles long with cuts and fills, a stockpond, and a drill hole and pad which has been scarified and seeded. The remainder of the unit remains relatively natural with an old revegetated exploration road which is substantially unnoticeable and washed out in many places in the stream bottom which travels the length of Squaw Canyon.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Portions of the unit along the northern and western parts of the unit do not have outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the irregular boundary configuration. The landforms are composed of two major canyons and a plateau area to the west called Bug Point. Bug Point has been severely chained. The vegetation within the unit is composed of stands of pinyon-juniper trees with cottonwood trees and riparian vegetation in the creek bottom. The topography and the vegetation on parts of the unit provides good natural screening because of the narrow, twisting portions of the canyons.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The topography and vegetative screening offer primitive and unconfined recreation for approximately 83% of the unit. Although these attributes offer primitive and unconfined recreation, it is not considered to be outstanding because of the lack of striking features and the general land forms.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Archaeology is a supplemental value to the unit. Large Anasazi sites can be found within the interior of the unit with smaller sites along the lower portions of Squaw Canyon. Intermittent streams are found in the bottom of Squaw and Papoose Canyons.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Colorado received 25 comments (12 for WSA designation and 13 against). Utah received 18 comments from 14 individuals, four groups, and one government agency. Of the specific comments (15), eight opposed WSA designation, three favored WSA designation and four gave no recommendation. All of the general comments (3) favored WSA designation.

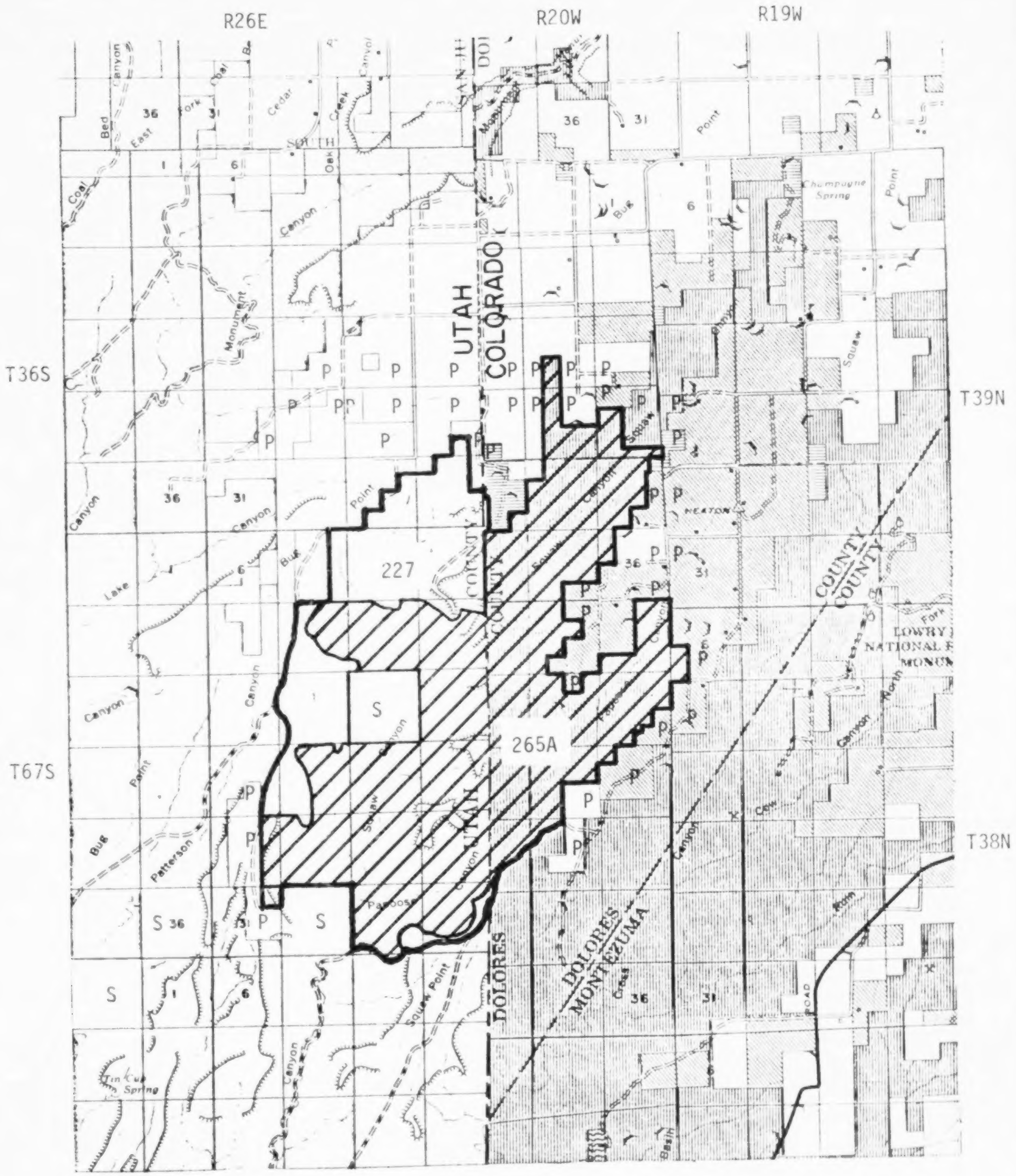
Comments mentioned the presence of roads within the unit and surrounding the unit. It was stated that the area has been reseeded, has a structure in the northern part, and has campsites and litter. One stated the area is natural and another that Tin Cup Mesa was natural and rugged. Comments stated both that the unit did and did not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Archaeologic and ecologic supplemental values were mentioned; also the state meant that no supplemental values are present. Energy development and potential, similarity of values present to other areas, concern about the State line cutting the WSA, differences in Colorado and Utah interpretations of FLPMA, and need for multiple use of the area were also mentioned.

4. DECISION: The original proposal shall be implemented to identify a 6,580 acre Squaw Canyon WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The roads in the north portion of the unit and a reseeded area, structures and other improvements are outside of the WSA. Tin Cup Mesa is not located within the unit. Although a portion of the unit has been reseeded it has been excluded from the WSA. Respondents referencing solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation did not explain why opportunities were or were not present.

Supplemental values mentioned agree with the original proposal. Oil, gas and mineral potential will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review process; similarity of the unit to other areas is not a criteria. Although the WSA is split by the State line, it will be studied in its entirety; both Colorado and Utah agree that the WSA meets all necessary criteria. Multiple use includes wilderness by definition.

No new site-specific information was received concerning wilderness characteristics of this unit.



UT-060-227/CO-030-265A - SQUAW AND PAPOOSE CANYONS
SQUAW - PAPOOSE CANYONS WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Land
P - Private Land

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-229/CO-030-265 WSA ACREAGE: 1,000 (Utah)

UNIT NAME: CROSS CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 2,112 (Utah) 11,272 Total

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located approximately 30 miles southeast of the city of Monticello, Utah and 28 miles northwest of Cortez, Colorado, in the southeast portion of San Juan County, Utah. This area was intensively inventoried at the request of the Colorado Montrose District BLM to determine if the area has wilderness characteristics.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit includes approximately 2,112 acres of BLM-administered lands.

B. NATURALNESS: Approximately 70% of the unit (Utah portion) or 1,400 acres appear natural. Impairments within the unit are two old mineral exploration "ways". The first way is one-half mile long and ends at an old prospect hole. The second way follows a northerly trend for 1½ miles and ends in State Section No. 16. Both of these ways were originally bladed into cryptogamic badland soil which is extremely slow to revegetate or to restore to a natural appearance. Two earthen dammed stock ponds lie along the longest of the two ways. A four-strand barbed wire fence extends one-half mile from the southern boundary north along the Colorado state line. A new oil well, with associated pad and waste pit, has been drilled one-half mile from the Colorado border with a disturbed area of approximately 200 by 300 feet. This well was drilled after the initial inventory period. At that time, the area was not being considered for intensive inventory. Two chainings lie within the unit on the western boundary. The northern most chaining contains 500 acres and the chaining directly south contains 200 acres. Both chainings have heavy deadfall within and cause a loss of naturalness to the unit which accounts for about 30% of the unit. A three-strand barbed wire fence lies within the northern chaining and has been bladed into the chaining. Seventy percent of the unit remains in its natural condition.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: Landforms within the Utah portion of the unit consist of a large eroded bowl with gradual sides to the west which end at the rim of Squaw Point, a flat finger of land. Badland type formations form the majority of the landforms with a few scattered pinyon-juniper trees and scattered and associated desert shrub communities. This landform extends into the State of Colorado which is adjacent to the unit boundary. Taking into consideration the minimal screening, low landforms and the badland type of character of the area, outstanding opportunities for solitude are not found within the majority of the Utah portion of this unit; however, 1,000 acres adjoining the Colorado side have potential for this type of opportunity when considered with the proposed WSA on the Colorado side of the unit.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited within this unit. The low badland characteristics of the unit would not attract recreationists seeking an outstanding recreation experience. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not considered to be outstanding within the majority of the Utah portion of the unit; however, 1,000 acres adjoining the Colorado side has potential for this type of opportunity.

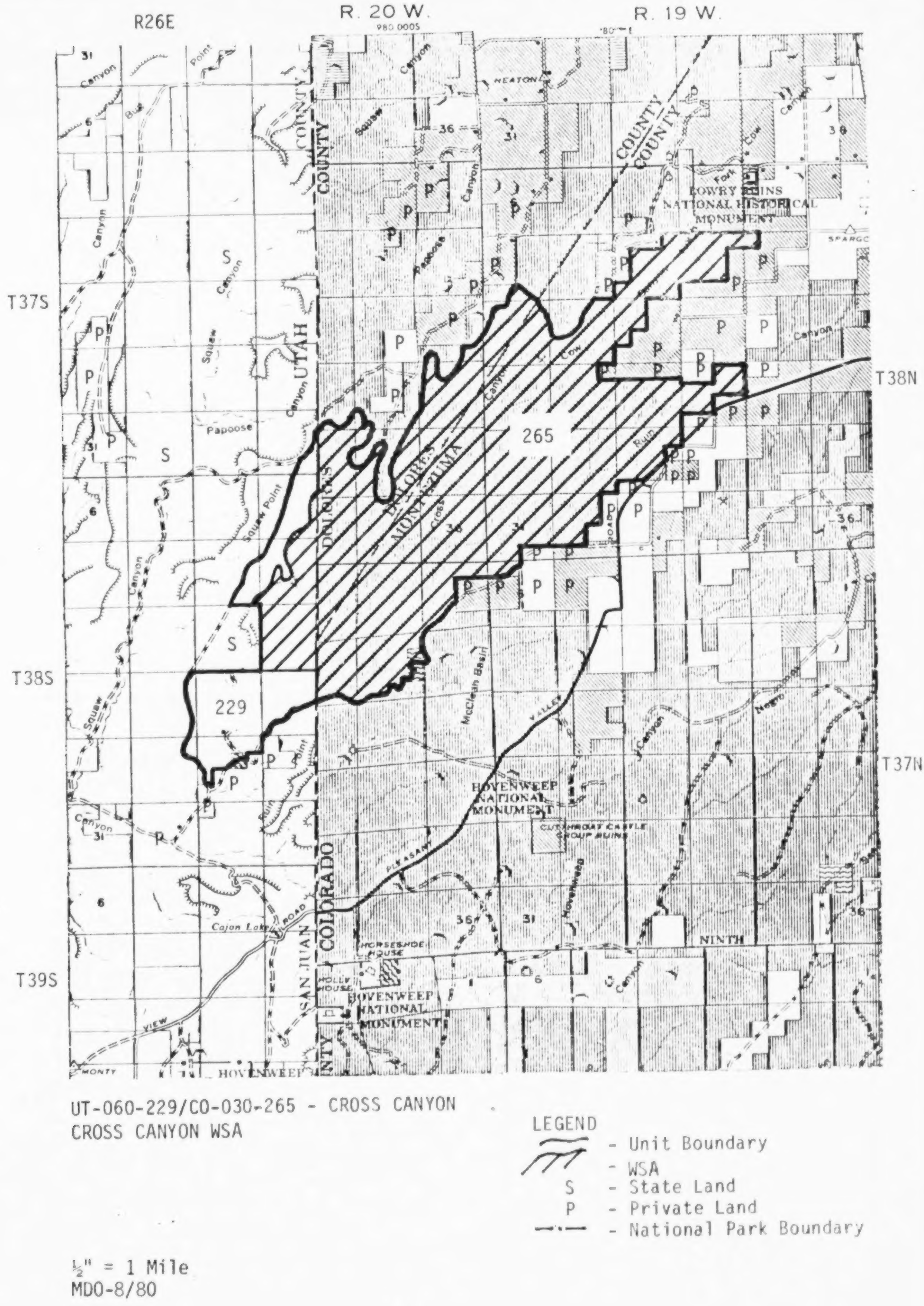
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Archaeology: There have been four cultural archaeological sites identified within this unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Utah received a total of 16 comments for this unit from 13 individuals, three groups and two government agencies. There were 12 specific comments and four general comments. Of the specific comments eight were against WSA designation, two favored WSA designation and two gave no recommendation. All four general comments favored WSA designation. The Colorado portion of the Unit CO-030-265 received 30 comments. Fifteen of the Colorado comments opposed WSA designation, 14 were in favor and one gave no recommendation. Utah respondents seemed to be concerned mostly with roads and naturalness. Comments made references to roads in the unit stating that the unit did not meet size requirements; the unit did not possess solitude or primitive unconfined recreation; and the unit has potential for minerals, oil and gas and coal. Respondents also stated that the unit was natural, has outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation and supplemental values such as archaeology.

4. DECISION: The original proposal will be implemented to identify the 1,000 acre Utah Cross Canyon WSA in combination with the 8,400 acre Colorado WSA CO-030-265.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Many comments contained observations that were unsubstantiated. Roads and reseeded areas in the north end of the unit were eliminated by a boundary adjustment during the intensive inventory. The resulting unit has retained its natural character. The statement which suggested opportunities for solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation were non-existent, did not present supportive statements. Two respondents suggested that there are no supplemental values in this unit. Although several comments referred to oil, gas and coal, these cannot be addressed until the study phase of the Wilderness Review Process. The comment which claimed that any reclamation would not be feasible, referred to an area outside the boundary of the proposed WSA.

Public comments did not provide site-specific information or a basis for changing the original proposal for this unit. The original proposal for this unit is considered to be appropriate.



UT-060-229/CO-030-265 - CROSS CANYON
CROSS CANYON WSA

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- WSA
S - State Land
P - Private Land
- National Park Boundary

½" = 1 Mile
MDO-8/80

UNIT NO.: UT-060-232/CO-030-263 WSA ACREAGE: 0 (Utah)

UNIT NAME: LITTLE RUIN CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 1,000 (Utah)

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit located in southeastern San Juan County, Utah, is contiguous to the State of Colorado on the east, the Navajo Reservation on the south, Hovenweep National Monument and private land on the west, and state and private lands on the north. The unit is also being intensively inventoried by the Colorado Montrose District BLM, Unit CO-030-263 Rare Lizard and Snake Instant Study Area.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit was not found to meet Wilderness Study Area (WSA) criteria. The unit contains 1,000 acres of BLM-administered lands. Approximately 10% has lost its natural character due to an electrical powerline and associated way. The remainder of the unit appears relatively natural, containing two "ways", one 3/8 mile in length and the other one, one mile in length. The Colorado Montrose District BLM has recommended that CO-030-263 be dropped from Intensive Inventory, based on this recommendation. The Utah portion of the unit will also be deleted because the size is under the required 5,000 acre criteria.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the unit (90%) appears to be predominently natural and free of human imprints. Within the 10% of the area which shows human imprints, there are three "ways" and a powerline right-of-way. A three-strand electric powerline extends along the bottom of Little Ruin Canyon for 5/8 mile and 1/4 mile in the northern portion of the unit. The second way intrudes from the Utah-Colorado border and travels southwest one mile and ends in the bottom of Little Ruin Canyon. The third way extends into the unit from the north for one-half mile. These human imprints make up about 10% of the unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The gentle topography of Little Ruin and Keeley Canyons to the west and the flat to rolling terrain on the plateau area to the east do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The canyons are approximately 1/8 mile wide and about 120 feet deep. Little Ruin Canyon is dissected by private land which cuts the canyon off in its central portion and also a powerline which runs the entire length of the canyon. Other areas have a broad open aspect which do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Little Ruin Canyon is cut off by private lands in its center making access from one end of the canyon to the other impossible without crossing private lands. The plateau area to the west is flat and rolling and extends into the Colorado Unit CO-030-263. This sparsely covered landform does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

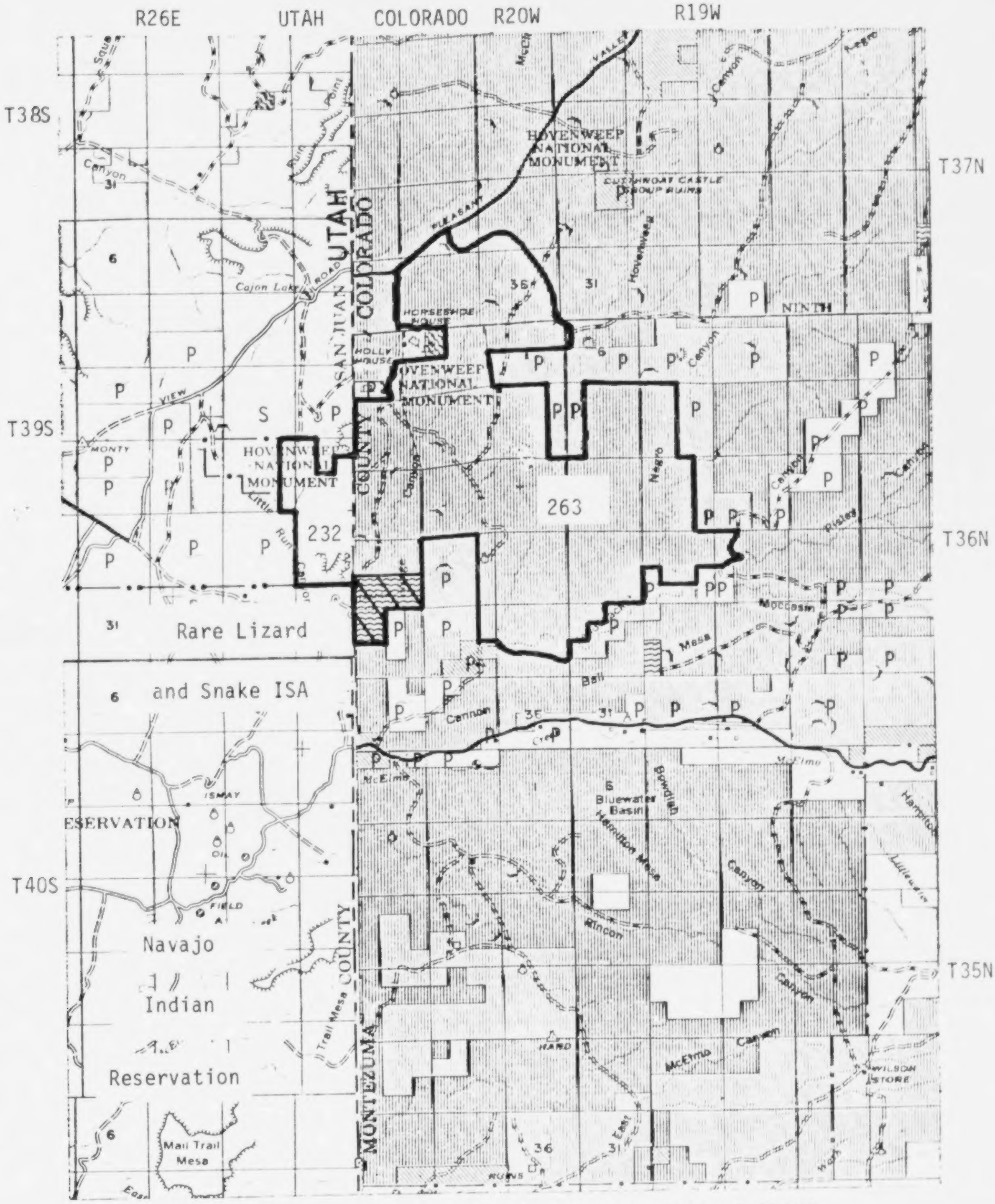
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The area is contiguous to Hovenweep National Monument, which is an archaeological National Monument administered by the National Park Service. There are two recorded sites within the unit. This unit is adjacent to the Colorado BLM Montrose District's Rare Lizard and Snake Instant Study Area, along the Utah-Colorado border.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: The Utah portion of this unit received six comments from three individuals, three groups and one government agency. Four comments were specific and two were general. The four specific comments supported WSA designation. One general comment supported WSA designation, and one opposed WSA designation. Thirty-two comments were received on the Colorado portion of this unit (CO-30-263). Twenty-six comments supported WSA designation, five were against WSA designation and one made no recommendation. The specific comments stated that excellent solitude and primitive unconfined recreation is found with the unit and that a supplemental value was found in the unit (archaeology).

4. DECISION: The 1,000 acre Little Ruin Canyon will be dropped from WSA consideration in accordance with the original proposal.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The Montrose District of the BLM in Colorado has recommended that their portion of this unit be dropped from the wilderness inventory process. If Colorado drops their portion of this unit, the Utah portion would be less than 5,000 acres which would drop this area from further wilderness consideration.

No new site specific information was presented regarding the wilderness quality or non-wilderness quality. The original proposed decision, that the unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive unconfined recreation is appropriate for the unit. The unit will be deleted from further wilderness consideration.



UT-060-232/CO-030-263 - LITTLE RUIN CANYON/RARE LIZARD & SNAKE

LEGEND
- Unit Boundary
- Rare Lizard and Snake ISA
- S - State Land
- P - Private Land
- National Park Boundary
- Indian Reservation Boundary

½" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

VERNAL DISTRICT

Intensive Inventory

Inventory Number	Unit Name	Identified as a WSA	Not Identified as a WSA
UT-080-103	West Cold Springs	X	
UT-080-104	Wild Mountain		X
UT-080-110	Hoy Mountain		X
UT-080-113	Diamond Breaks	X	
UT-080-200	Stone Bridge Draw		X
UT-080-208	Boone Springs		X
UT-080-414	Daniel's Canyon	X	
UT-080-415	Moonshine Draw		X
UT-080-419	Bull Canyon	X	
UT-080-605	Sand Wash		X
UT-080-612	Nine Mile Canyon		X
UT-080-615	Argyle Canyon		X
UT-080-616	Devils Canyon		X
UT-080-707	East Big Pack Mountain		X
UT-080-708	Big Pack Mountain		X
UT-080-709	West Pack Mountain		X
UT-808-715	Bitter Creek		X
UT-080-721	Atchee Ridge		X
UT-080-722	Rat Hole Ridge		X
UT-080-730	Winter Ridge		X

UNIT NO.: UT 080-103/CO 010-208 WSA ACREAGE: 235 (Utah) 14,352 (Colo.)

UNIT NAME: WEST COLD SPRINGS UNIT ACREAGE: 4,731 (Utah) 40,290 (Colo.)

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located in northeast Utah and overlaps into Colorado; the majority of the unit is within Colorado. The unit was jointly inventoried by the Vernal and Craig Districts of the BLM. The unit consists of the western portion of the south slopes of Cold Springs Mountain, north of Brown's Park.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The following chart summarizes the size and boundary changes made through the inventory process.

Acres	UT.	CO.	Total
INITIAL INVENTORY	4,731	40,290	45,021
BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT	-1,531	-25,808	-27,339
PROPOSED WSA	3,200	14,482	17,682
BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT	-2,965	-130	-3,095
IDENTIFIED WSA	235	14,352	14,587

The unit's acreage includes only public-land administered by the BLM.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit is the rough and steep south-facing slopes of Cold Spring Mountain with the top of the mountain partially in the unit. Many drainages exist with two major ones being Beaver Creek Canyon along the west and Spitzie Draw along the east. The unit is in a natural condition. All major imprints of man were deleted as a result of making two different boundary adjustments.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Due to the varied topography and dense vegetation, the Cold Springs unit does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. A sense of vastness exists, caused by the size and high elevations. Intimacy can be found in the draws and canyons. The dense vegetation caused by the presence of water offers screening from other activities. When taken cumulatively, the opportunities for solitude are outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Due to the diverse topography and vegetation, the presence of water, and the variety in wildlife, this unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The size and configuration also enhance the variety and extent of places to experience primitive recreation. The canyon, draws, and steep slopes of the mountain offer opportunities for backpacking, hiking, photography, scenic viewing, hunting, and fishing. In general, the number of activities available and quality of the experiences associated with them provide this unit with outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The area is known to possess prehistoric and historic cultural values. During prehistoric times the area was first utilized by the Fremont culture and later by the Ute and Shoshoni tribes. The endangered peregrine falcon has been observed in this unit. *Parthenium ligulatum*, a threatened and endangered plant species, has been located within this unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Fourteen of the comments received stated the unit should proceed to WSA identification and generally concurred with the BLM evaluation. Sixteen comments were against WSA identification. One comment noted a configuration problem. This comment states the unit is too long and narrow and does not provide sufficient area for freedom of movement. Nine comments state the unit remains natural while seven comments cited the unit or part of the unit as not natural due to on site and off site human impacts. Seven comments also suggested man made impacts adjacent to the unit detract from outstanding solitude. The majority of comments addressing recreation noted that the unit has value for recreation.

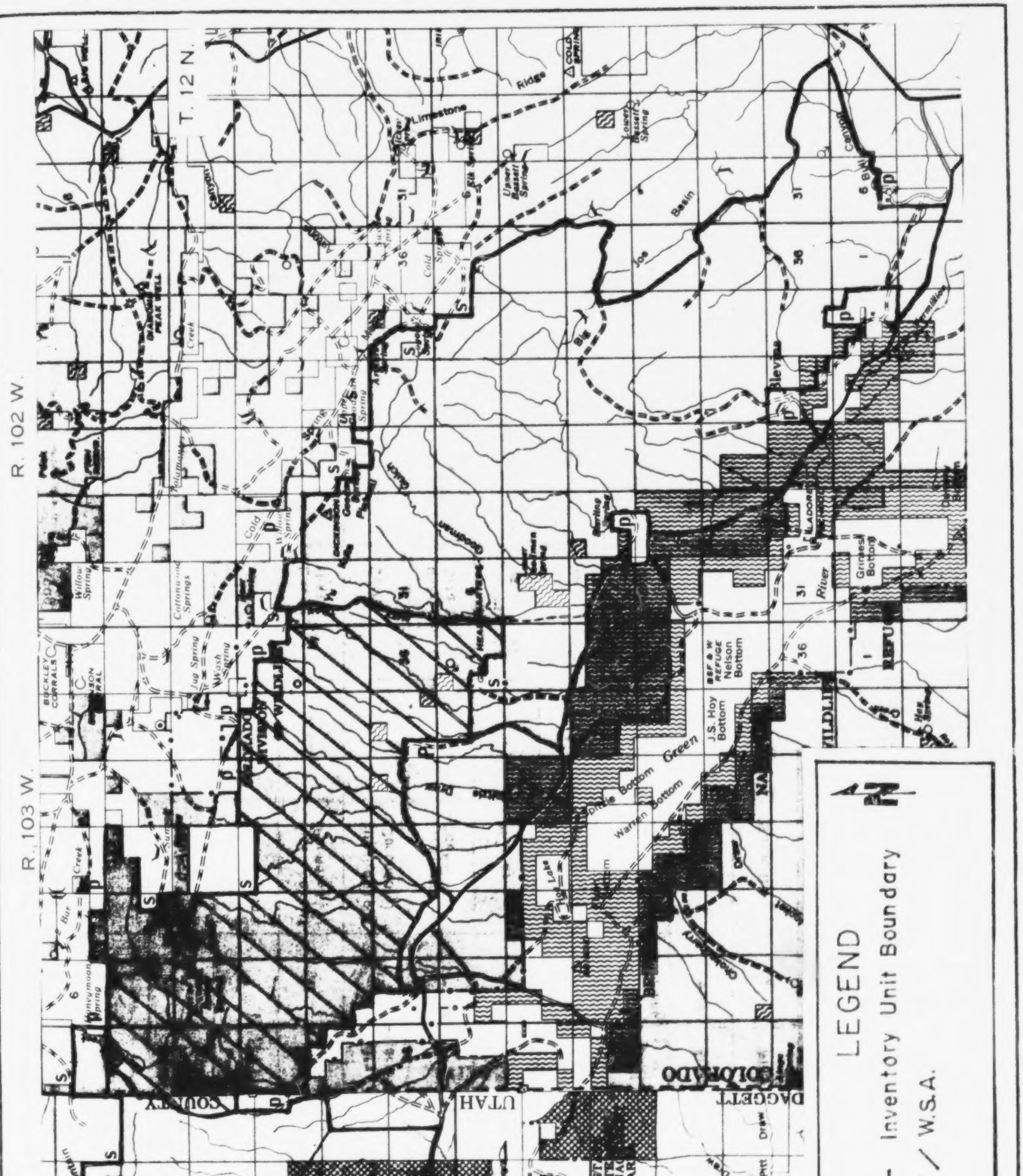
4. DECISION: Identify a WSA with a boundary change in the Western portion of the unit.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: As a result of public comments and field inventory inspection of the unit, it has been found that Beaver Creek Canyon along the Utah-Colorado border represents a major break in topography. Because Beaver Canyon is deep and lined with escarpments, foot travel from one side to the other is blocked. At the mouth of the canyon a tract of private land prevents a user from passing from one side to the other without crossing the private land. Hence, the canyon and private land isolate the extreme western portion from the majority of the unit.

It has been found that the combined effects of the Beaver Creek Canyon and adjacent private land result in adverse effects on a outstanding opportunity for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreational experience. Therefore 3,095 acres were deleted from the western portion of the unit.

Bureau of Land Management
Vernal District

UT 080-103
CO 010-208



Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT 080-104 WSA ACREAGE: 0 (UT & CO)

UNIT NAME: WILD MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE: 130 (UT) 4,520 (CO)

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies approximately 45 miles northeast of Vernal, Utah, is adjacent to the Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery and straddles the Utah-Colorado border with the majority being within Colorado. The unit consists of the rounded mountainous landform known as Wild Mountain, elevation 8,600 feet. Also a portion of the unit's boundary is contiguous to Dinosaur National Monument.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 4,650 acres with 130 acres in Utah and 4,520 acres in Colorado.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit consists of the top and slopes of Wild Mountain. With the exception of the steep vertical wall in the southeast portion of the unit that leads to the Jones Hole Creek drainage, the majority of the terrain consists of rolling sagebrush covered slopes. Scattered within the unit imprints of man occur, related to livestock grazing. Numerous reservoirs and fences occur. Several infrequently used two track "ways" create noticeable imprints on the rolling open landscape.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Opportunities for solitude are very limited within the unit due to the unit's open character with little vegetative or topographic screening. The presence of the Dinosaur National Monument to the south would not increase the unit's potential for providing solitude.

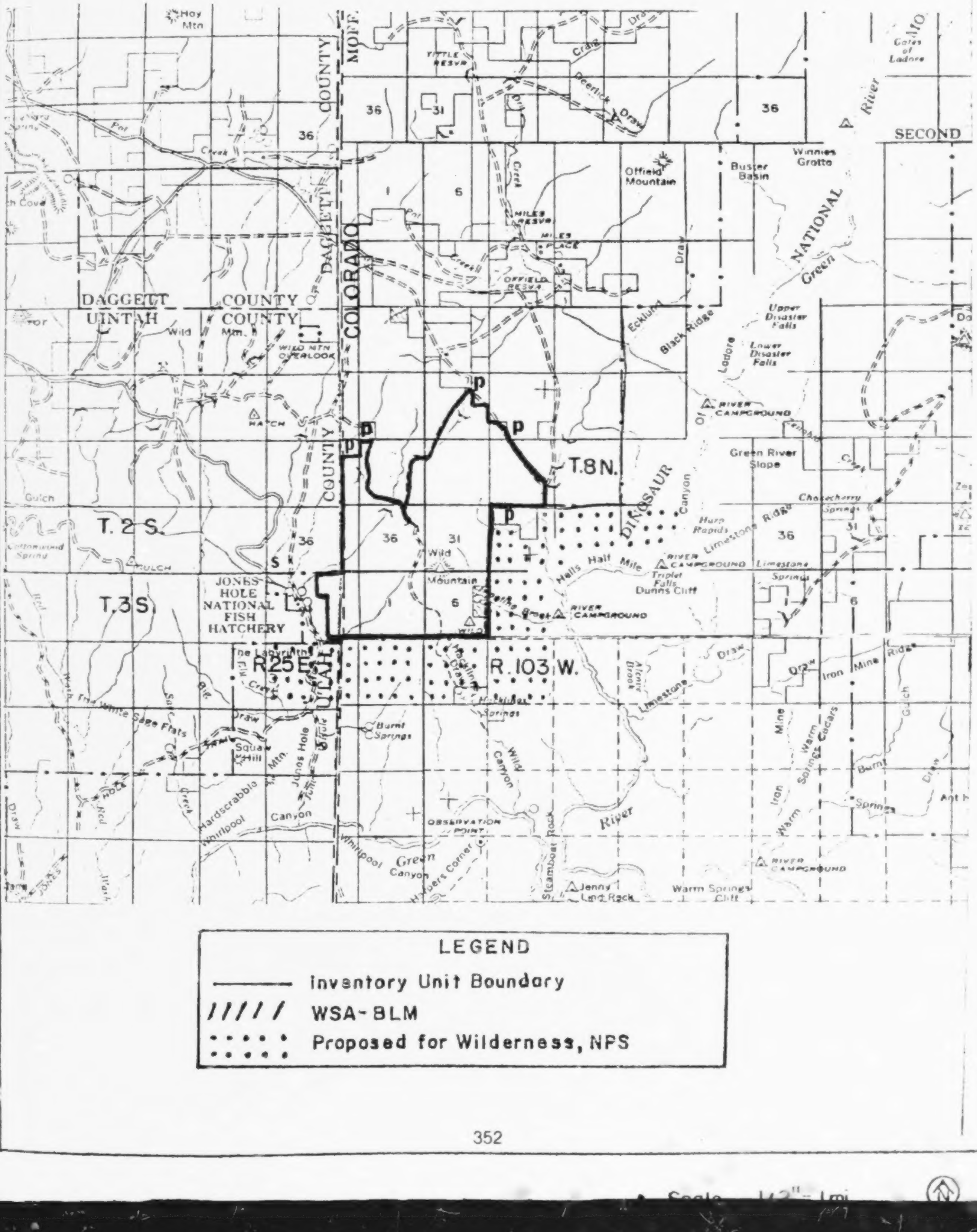
2. RECREATION: Recreational opportunities are fairly limited within the unit, terrain is repetitous and does not provide an interesting setting for recreational experiences of hiking, camping or backpacking. Recreational opportunity would be confined to a very limited number of users on the small area on the top of Wild Mountain. This offers a dramtic 360° vista of the near and distance surrounding landscape.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit is contiguous to the Dinosaur National Monument.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Fourteen comments stated that the unit is natural and generally concurred with BLM's other evaluations. Thirteen comments noted that the unit is a continuation of the wilderness values found in Dinosaur National Monument. Several of these comments emphasized that this unit is a continuation of the Monument's landforms. Fourteen comments stated outstanding opportunities for solitude exist. In general, the comments cited contiguity to Dinosaur National Monument, enhancement of the Monument's proposed wilderness and that the upland areas provide a refuge from rafters in the Green River canyon. Supplemental values commented upon include the "Outlaw Trail", two threatened plant species, geologic formations and wildlife habitat. Comments not favoring WSA designation cited the existence of numerous ways and livestock improvements.

4. DECISIONS: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The unit by itself does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the open character of the terrain and lack of vegetation or topographic screening. The unit encompasses generally the top of the mountain only. There is a lack of side canyons or draws to find seclusion. The unit also does not provide outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Recreational opportunities are limited within the majority of the unit. The top of Wild Mountain does offer a 360° landscape vista but this activity does not provide an outstanding wilderness experience due to its singularity and the very confining nature of the terrain which would restrict most activity to the top of Wild Mountain. Because of the geographic orientation away from the landforms within Dinosaur National Monument (DNM), the Wild Mountain unit does not directly contribute to or enhance the values present in the Monument, nor is it enhanced by the presence of DNM. The extremely steep terrain and rim rock would block foot passage from within the Monument to Wild Mountain. The unit meets only the size, roadless, and naturalness criteria and not for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Therefore, no changes were made in the original recommendation to drop this unit from further wilderness study.


T. 2 S.
T. 3 S.
T. 8 N.
R25E.
R. 103 W.
DAGGETT COUNTY
UINTAH COUNTY
DAGGETT COUNTY
UINTAH COUNTY
MOFFAT COUNTY
COLORADO
JONES HOLE NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY
DINOSAUR NATIONAL
SECOND
Offield Mountain
Buster Basin
Winnies Grotto
Gates of Ladore
Upper Disaster Falls
Lower Disaster Falls
Black Ridge
Green River Slope
Hells Half Mile
Triplet Falls
Dunns Cliff
Wild Mountain
Whirlpool Canyon
Observation Point
Warm Springs Cliff
Jenny Lind Rock
Green River
LEGEND
Inventory Unit Boundary
WSA-BLM
Proposed for Wilderness, NPS
Scale 1/2" = 1 mi

UNIT NO.: UT-080-110 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: HOY MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE: 5,515 (UT)

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located approximately 33 miles northeast of Vernal, Utah and straddles the Colorado-Utah state line with roughly equal portions of the unit within each state. The unit has a very irregular broken configuration, created by the adjacent private land ownership. The unit consists of the singular peak of Hoy Mountain (8800'), an irregularly shaped mountain with steep side slopes cut by numerous drainages and exposed quartzite rock outcroppings.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 10,769 acres. The Utah-Colorado state line crosses the unit with 5,515 acres in Utah and 5,254 acres in Colorado.

Unit's acreage includes only public land administered by BLM.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit consists of the peak of Hoy Mountain and its steep side slopes with numerous quartzite rock outcroppings. Vegetation is varied, pinyon-juniper being dominant, with scattered areas of mountain mahogany, ponderosa pine, fir and aspen. Imprints of man occur within the unit along the lower elevations mostly associated with grazing in the form of trails, ways and water devlopments.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Opportunities for solitude are limited due to the topography. The unit consists of a singular small mountain peak which would concentrate users on the top of Hoy Mountain. The irregular configuration limits use of the side slopes of the mountain.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The terrain and vegetation offer an interesting and challenging setting for hiking and backpacking. Abundant wildlife provides opportunities for hunting and wildlife observation. The topography of the unit, being the singular peak of Hoy Mountain, limits the dispersal ability of the unit and the number of users. The irregular shape and narrow portions of the unit restrict movement and confine activities.

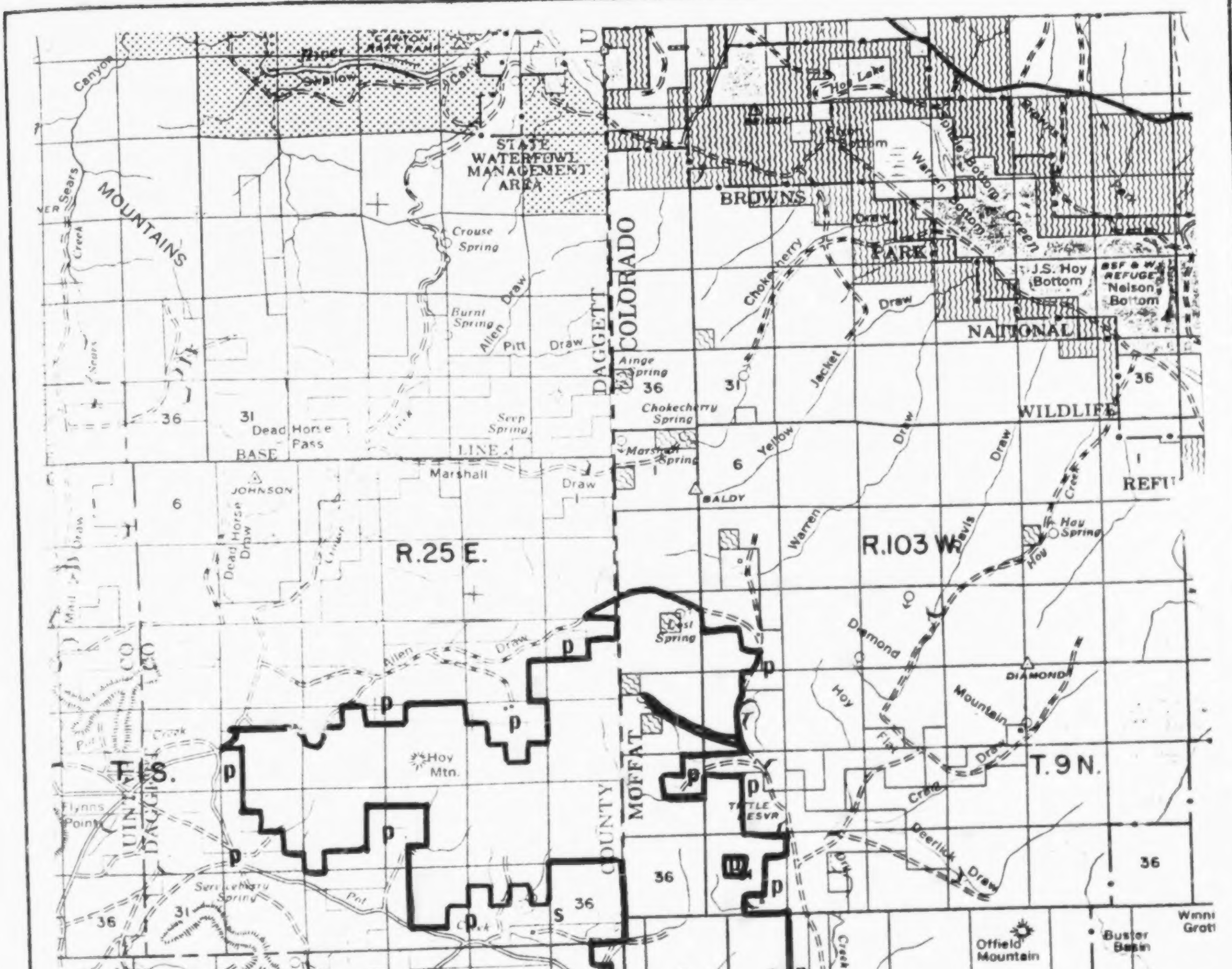
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Ten comments were received of which four were for and six against WSA designation. Two comments stated that the unit remains in a natural state. One of these comments also stated that outstanding natural features related to regional values need protection. Five comments stated that the unit does not qualify as being natural. Reasons given included man-made imprints such as powerlines, fences, water developments, and the presence of in-roads. Five of the six comments addressing solitude specifically stated that the unit lacks solitude. All of these comments referred to adjacent private land and man-made impacts as detracting from an outstanding experience. The comment stating that the unit has opportunities for solitude observed that few people could actually be recreating in the unit on the same day.

The four comments addressing recreation stated that the unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Two of these comments suggested the topographic relief and configuration of the unit does not lend itself to good hiking potential.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The previous inventory proposal cited that the unit lacks both outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined type recreation. The majority of public information received concurs with the BLM proposal. All comments addressing recreation stated that the unit does not possess outstanding primitive or unconfined recreation opportunities. The comment stating that lack of use assures solitude is an issue to be evaluated during the wilderness study phase. No other comments favored solitude. Therefore, the proposal to delete this unit from further study will be unchanged.


LEGEND
Inventory Unit Boundary
W.S.A.
STATE WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA
BROWNS PARK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
MOUNTAINS
DAGGETT
COLORADO
MOFFAT COUNTY
R.25 E.
R.103 W.
T.1 S.
T.9 N.
Hoy Mtn.
Dead Horse Pass
BASE LINE
Marshall Draw
Crouse Spring
Burnt Spring
Allen Draw
Pitt Draw
Ainge Spring
Chokecherry Spring
Marshall Spring
BALDY
JOHNSON
Lost Spring
Diamond Mountain
DIAMOND
Hoy Spring
TATTLE RESVR
Offield Mountain
MILES RESVR
OFFIELD RESVR
Crouse Draw
Deerlick Draw
Buster Basin
Hatch Cove
Serviceberry Spring
Flynns Point
DAGGETT COUNTY
UINTAH COUNTY
Wild Mtn
WILD MTN OVERLOOK
POT
Cottonwood Spring
GULCH
JONES HOLE NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY
Wild Mountain
WILD
DINOSAUR
Hells Half Mile
RIVER CAMPGROUND
Triplet Falls
Dunns Cliff
Harp Rapids
Limestone Ridge
Limestone Spring
Green River Slope
Upper Disaster Falls
Lower Disaster Falls
Lodore Canyon
Black Ridge
Ecklund
J.S. Hoy Bottom
Nelson Bottom
Hoy Lake
Warren Bottom
Chokecherry Draw
Yellow Jacket Draw
Warren Draw
Davis Draw
Hoy Draw
Jarvie Draw
Gulch
Diamond

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT 080-113/CO 010-214 — WSA ACREAGE: 3,900 (UT) 31,480 (CO)

UNIT NAME: DIAMOND BREAKS — UNIT ACREAGE: 3,900 (UT) 31,480 (CO)

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit overlaps the Colorado-Utah state boundaries, with approximately 80% of the unit being within Colorado. A joint intensive inventory was done of Unit CO 010-214/UT 080-113 by the Craig and Vernal Districts. The unit lies approximately 100 miles west of Craig, Colorado and 56 miles southeast of Manila, Utah. The unit is south of Brown's Park National Wildlife Refuge and adjacent to the Dinosaur National Monument in the northeast portion. The topography consists of a broken land mass known as the Diamond Mountains and a part of the eastern extent of the Uinta Range. The unit consists of numerous irregular peaks of 7,600 feet to 8,600 feet that descend to lower elevations of 5,600 feet to 7,300 feet. Terrain and vegetation are varied.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERTISTICS: The following chart summarizes boundary changes made through the inventory process:

A. SIZE	UT	CO	TOTAL	
Initial inventory	8,080	33,990	42,070	
Boundary adjustment	- 4,180	- 1,310	- 5,490	
Proposed WSA	3,900	32,680	36,580	
Boundary adjustment	0	- 1,200	- 1,200	
Identified	3,900	31,480	35,380	ACRES

The unit acreage includes only public land administered by the BLM.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit exhibits a high degree of naturalness with a diverse mixture of vegetation from sagebrush lower flats to aspen, fir and ponderosa pine in the higher elevations; topographic relief is varied with numerous mountain tops, ridges and steep-walled draws. The overall impact of the imprints of man do not significantly detract from the naturalness of the unit in relation to the unit's large size and the varied topography and vegetation.

C. OUTSANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The large size of the unit with the diversity in terrain represented by numerous mountain meadows and peaks, valleys, steep-sloped draws and a diverse vegetative stand that provides screening opportunities, combine to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Numerous draws, including Chokecherry, Yellow Jacket, Warren, Hoy, and Davis Draws, provide excellent opportunities for solitude because of the steep side slopes providing isolation. The variety of vegetation in the high rugged terrain in valley bottoms, draws and ridges, allows for numerous opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The large size of the unit with its diversity of terrain and vegetation offers excellent opportunities for varied forms of primitive or unconfined types of recreation. Excellent opportunities exist within this unit for backpacking, scenic viewing, hunting, photography, and other forms of recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: This area was utilized in prehistoric times by the Fremont culture, and lithic scatter, granaries, and pictograph/petroglyph sites are known to exist in the area. The area was occupied later by the Ute and Shoshoni historic tribes, fur trappers and traders, and rancher-settlers. The peregrine falcon and bald eagle have been noted in the unit. The protected bighorn sheep ranges in the eastern portion of the unit.

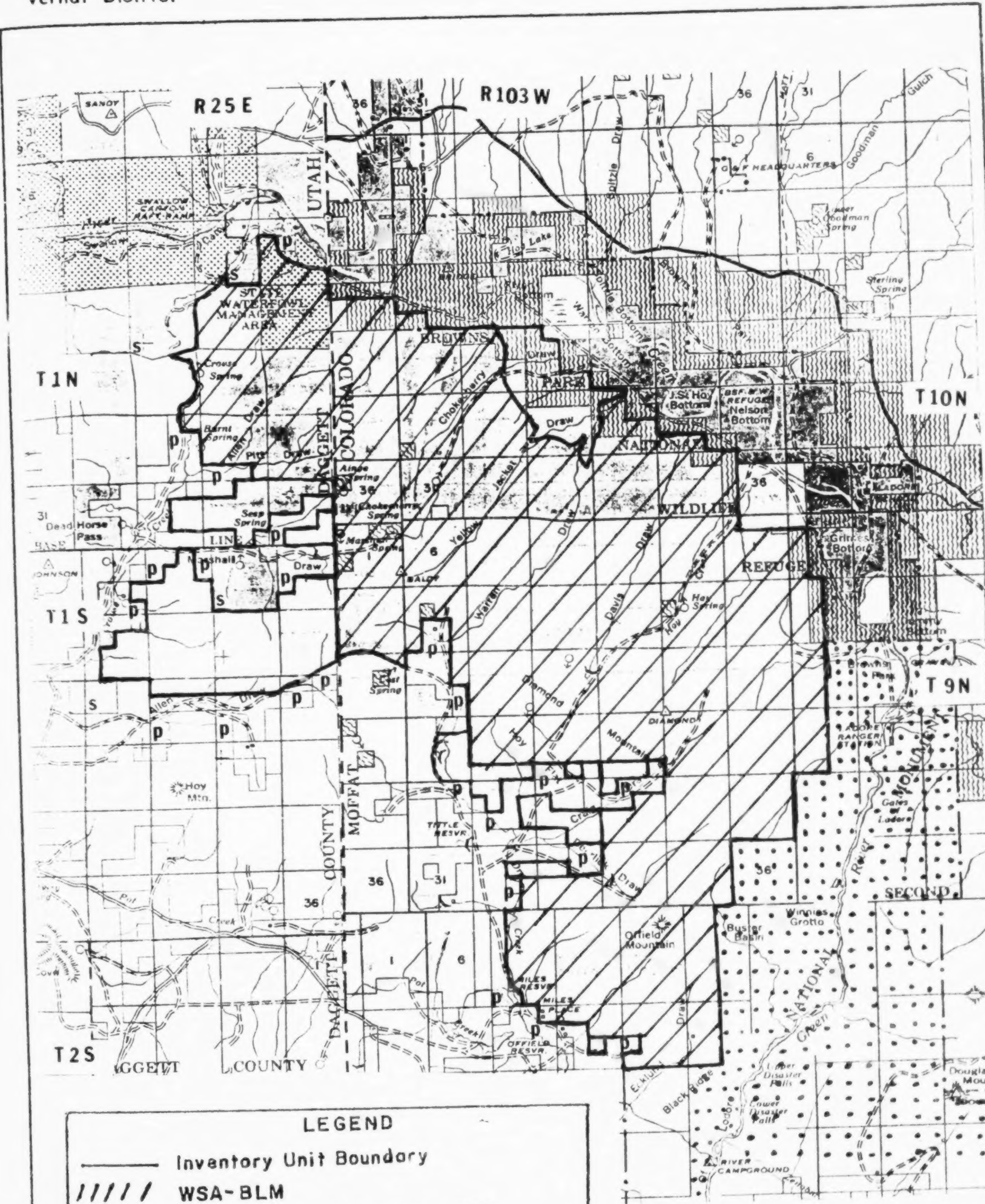
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Fourteen of the seventeen comments addressing naturalness, stated that the unit remains natural due to minimal imprints from man. Three comments suggested that part of the unit was not natural due to roads. Twenty-two comments addressed solitude. Fifteen of these comments concurred with the BLM analysis that solitude was available. Fourteen comments stated that the unit meets outstanding recreational criteria. Commentors felt activities possible in this unit include backpacking, hiking, photography, hunting and wildlife observation. Nine comments addressed supplemental values which include historic, archaelogical and cultural values. Final analysis of public comments on this unit indicates an overwhelming support for WSA identification.

4. DECISION: This unit is identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The previous inventory proposal cited that the unit remains in a natural state and has both outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined type recreation. A substantial amount of public support in favor of this proposal and lack of significant specific information to change the BLM recommendation are the bases of the rationale for this decision. Based on field checks and public comments, a boundary adjustment of 1,200 acres was made in the northern portion of the unit (in Colorado) to exclude roads and ways found to be significant. The ways ways are excluded since they are located in open sagebrush flats and are highly visible.

Bureau of Land Management
Vernal District

UT 080-113
CO 010-214



Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT 080-200 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: STONE BRIDGE DRAW UNIT ACREAGE: 2,280

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies approximately 20 miles northeast of Vernal, Utah and is contiguous to the Dinosaur National Monument. The unit is a small strip of land, approximately one mile wide by four miles long, that lies at the base of Split Mountain. The Island Park Road forms the north boundary. Terrain is uniform, with rolling hills and moderate slopes, cut by occasional shallow drainages.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 2,280 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

B. NATURALNESS: The terrain consists of moderate slopes and rolling hills; occasional shallow washes cut through the unit. There is little elevational variation within the unit. Vegetation ranges from big sagebrush in the lower elevations to juniper on the hillsides. Imprints of man consists of two intrusion ways and a developed spring.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The size and shape of the unit offer limited opportunities for solitude. The slight elevational changes with moderate slopes allow little terrain screening. The juniper vegetation found in some areas does provide a degree of screening. The bottoms of the washes within the unit also offer topographic screening in limited areas of the unit. The size, shape, terrain and vegetation offer but a marginal degree of solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit is lacking in outstanding features or focal points. There is little variety or change in the terrain to provide a challenging recreational experience. The unit's size, shape, terrain and vegetation do not provide a setting conductive to an outstanding recreational experience. The presence of the Dinosaur National Monument to the south does not signficantly increase the opportunities for recreation within the unit. The steep north slope of Split Mountain, adjacent the unit, acts as a barrier to the interior of the Monument to users of the unit.

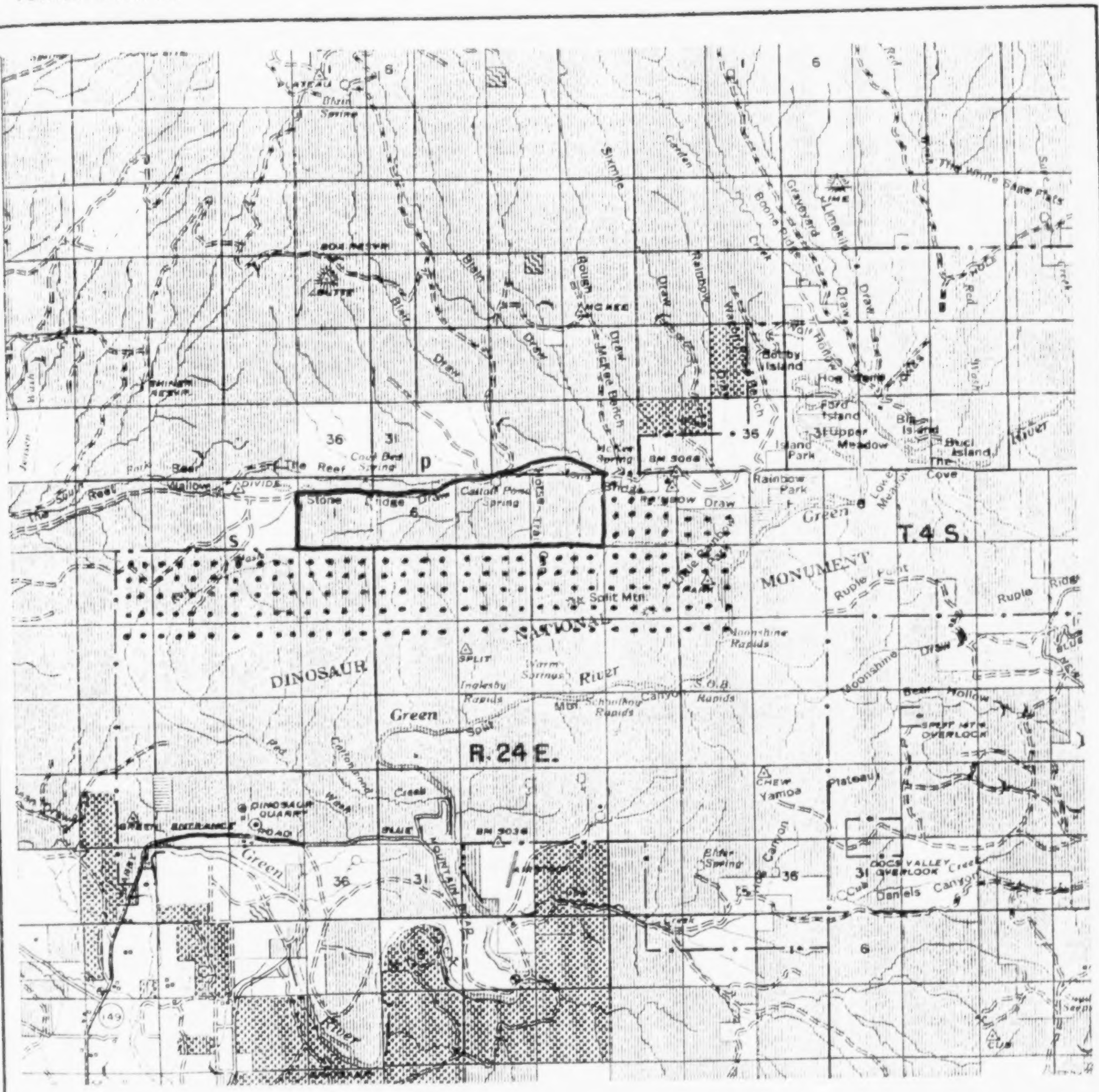
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The area is contiguous to an area of the Dinosaur National Monument that has been formally recommended to Congress as wilderness. To date, no action has been taken on the National Park Service's recommendation.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Six comments were received; three recommended the unit for identification as a WSA and three were against identification. Those comments favoring designation cited no specific reason other than the unit being adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument. The comments against identification either concurred with BLM or pointed out that areas of recreational quality have already been included with the Monument Park. One comment stated that the small rectangular shaped of the unit would limit recreational opporutnities.

4. DECISION: This unit does not qualify as a wilderness study area.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: BLM's findings are that this unit does not meet the criteria for outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive, unconfined recreation by itself or in conjunction with the adjoining proposed Park wilderness. The reason the unit does not qualify is because of the unit shape, small size, uniform terrain and lack of vegetative screening.

Because of these points, the unit fails to meet the necessary WSA outstanding opportunities criteria.



LEGEND

——— Inventory Unit Boundary

///// WSA-BLM

• • • • • Proposed for Wilderness, NPS

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT 080-208 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: BOONE SPRINGS UNIT ACREAGE: 27,483

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located approximately 27 miles northeast of Vernal, Utah and contiguous to Dinosaur National Monument in the southeast. The unit consists of the south-facing drainage slope of the Diamond Mountain Plateau. A portion of the Diamond Gulch drainage occurs in the northeastern portion of the unit. The unit is cut by numerous washes and draws that drain from the Diamond Mountain Plateau to the Green River. The terrain in the southern portion of the unit consists of rolling hills and sage flats cut by occasional drainages. Vegetation in this portion is predominantly sagebrush with scattered pinyon-juniper. Further to the north, the terrain becomes rugged with numerous drainages and steeper slopes that lead to the Diamond Mountain Plateau. The pinyon-juniper increases in density in the higher northern portions of the unit.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 27,483 acres of public land administered by the BLM. Private and state land have not been inventoried or included in the size calculations.

B. NATURALNESS: There are three large chainings in the northern portion of the unit. The chainings are on south slopes, being visible from much of the unit. The strong edge effect and unnatural linear quality of the chainings are strong visual evidence of man's manipulation of the land surface. Numerous ways also intrude the unit, affecting the naturalness in portions of the unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The west and east portions of the unit are impacted by the large chainings; the terrain and vegetation of the southern portions offer limited opportunities for solitude due to the openness and lack of screening vegetation. Opportunities for solitude would be available in the north central portion and the Diamond Gulch areas. These areas being separate from one another would break the continuity of experience, both areas being too small to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

2. PRIMITVE AND UNCONFINED RECREAITON: The unit could provide for hiking, backpacking, scenic and geologic sightseeing, and camping but the impact of the large highly visible chained areas and the intrusion ways detract from the overall wilderness experience within the unit. The unimpacted areas are separated from each other and their size limits the opportunities available.

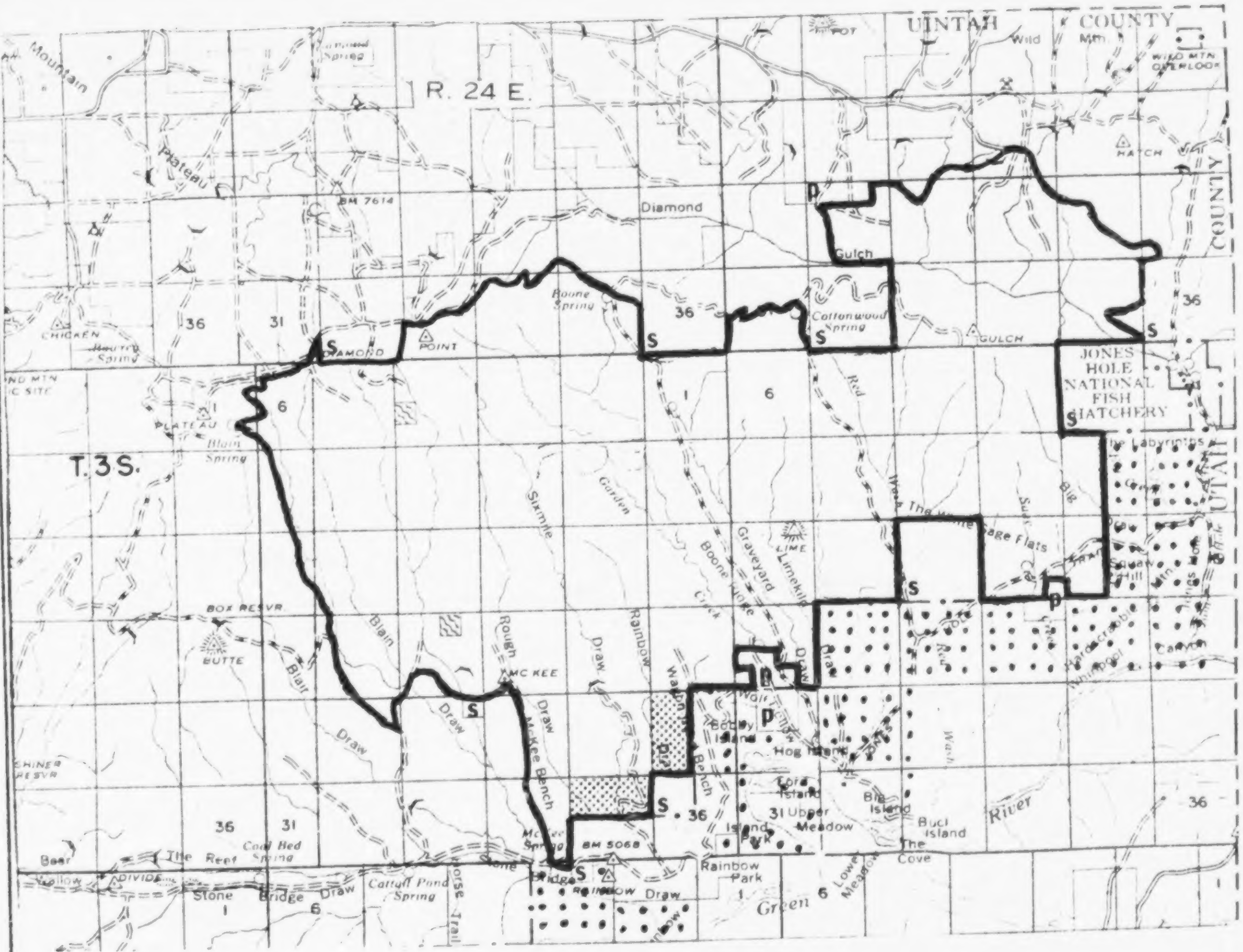
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Of the eleven comments received, seven agreed with BLM's proposal to drop this unit from further wilderness review, while four others disagreed.

Those comments agreeing with the proposal cited insufficient size to accommodate more than one party at a time, lack of naturalness, the chaining on the east side as imposing and recreation is available but not outstanding due to limitations such as a lack of potable surface water or terrain restrictions. Two comments simply concurred with BLM's intensive inventory findings to drop the unit from further study.

Those comments favoring WSA identification supported it because it is contiguous to the Monument or meets the wilderness criteria for naturalness.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No new information was received through the public comment period. The majority of the opinions favored the BLM's recommendation to drop the unit from further study. Principle reasons are: 1) the chained areas appear noticeably unnatural; 2) there are seven ways that intrude the unit for distances longer than a mile; 3) outstanding solitude or unconfined/primitive recreation is available only in restricted portions of the unit. Because of a lack of both overall naturalness and unconfined/primitive recreation, the proposal will remain unchanged.



LEGEND

———	Inventory Unit Boundary
/////	WSA-BLM
• • • • •	Proposed for Wilderness, NPS

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT-080-414 WSA ACREAGE: 2,475

UNIT NAME: DANIEL'S CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 5,920

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 20 air miles east of Vernal, Utah and lies between Blue Mountain and the Yampa Plateau. The northwest corner borders Dinosaur National Monument and Daniel's Canyon cuts through the northern one-third on the unit. The canyon is the dominate land and scenic feature. It is deep, narrow and has steep walls rising up to 1,600 feet. Only a portion of this canyon; however, is on public land.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERTISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit's size includes public land administered by BLM. Private land and state land has not been inventoried or included in these figures. The following chart summarizes the size information and boundary adjustment:

Intensive inventory	5,920
First Boundary Adjustment (890)	5,030
Second Boundary Adjustment (2,555)	2,475
Identified WSA	2,475

B. NATURALNESS: This unit has limited human impacts. Imprints consist of a stock drive trail across the unit, a small maze of jeep trails on low buttes near the western boundary, one mile of barbed-wire fence, four small stock reservoirs and an operating rock quarry with one mile of access road. Therefore, during the first phase of the intensive inventory, 890 acres were proposed to be dropped to delete some of the protruding fingers of land and imprints. Because of the rugged terrain, Daniel's Canyon has retained its primeval characters.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The unit provides an opportunity for solitude because of the topography and vegetative screening. Daniel's Canyon is rugged, with excellent screening provided by large boulders, tangled box elder trees, ledges and water chutes. The canyon is secluded by steep walls with access only possible at the top or mouth of the canyon. The remainder of the area, broken by shallow canyons and buttes, offers some screening, along with the scattered pinyon-juniper, but is not outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The unit offers several forms of recreation: photography, nature study, deer hunting, horseback riding, and hiking. There are excellent panoramas of the Uintah Basin and Split Mountain Canyon. The livestock trail is a ready-made trail for horseback riding. For hiking, Daniel's Canyon is very rugged and scenic.

The focal point in this unit is Daniel's Canyon, however, ownership is divided between public, state, and private. The lack of control over the non-federal land adversely affects access and divides the outstanding portion of the landforn.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Outstanding view of the Split Mountain Anticline, Split Mountain Canyon and other exposed rock formations.

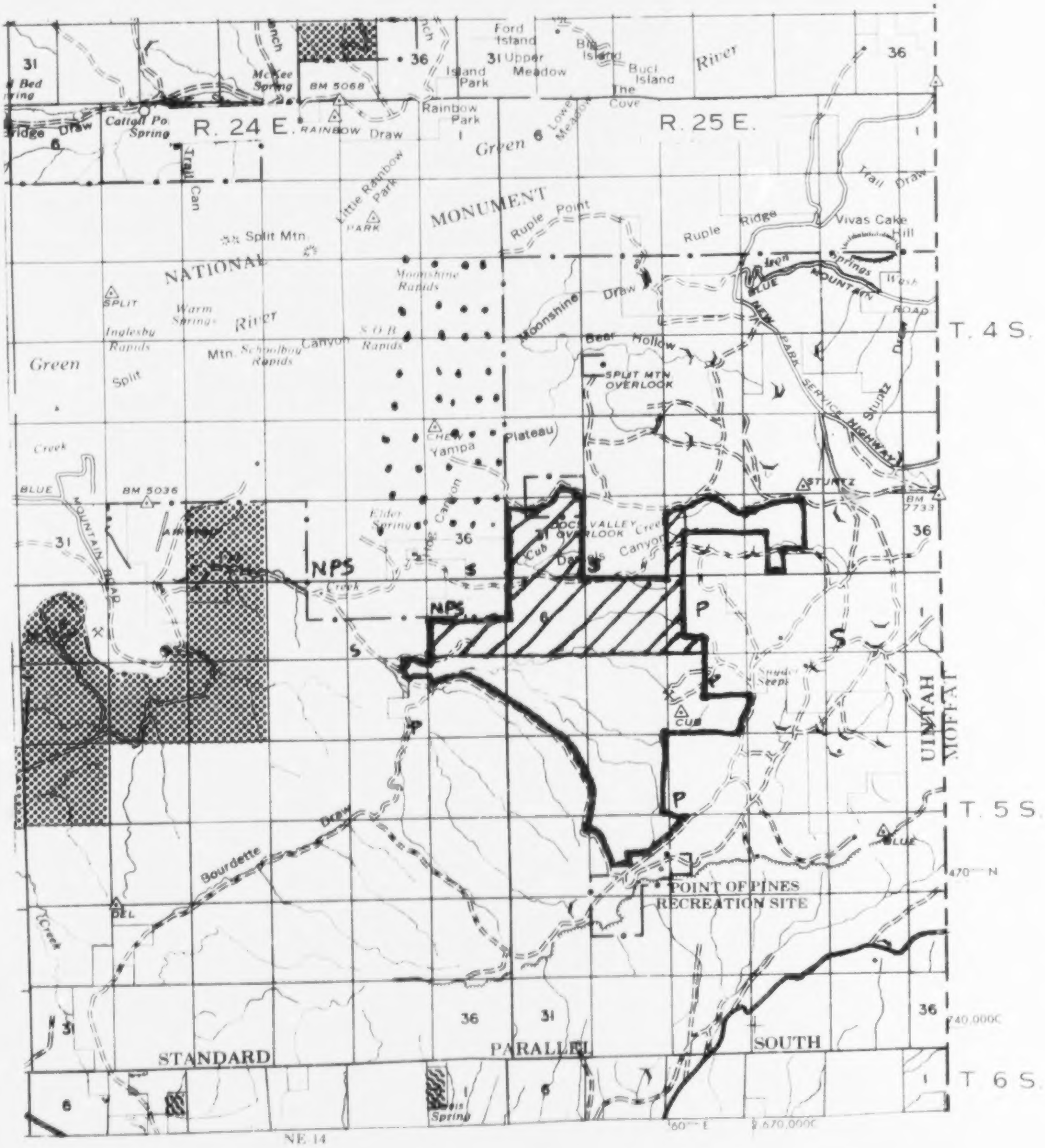
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Those favoring wilderness study area identification generally stated that the unit is contiguous to Dinosaur National Monument, meets WSA criteria, or concurred with BLM's intensive inventory findings. The State of Utah recommended the area as a WSA and suggested the possibility of Federal acquisition of the state section crossing Daniels Canyon. Comments not favoring identification brought out the points that areas of outstanding recreation quality were included when the addition was added to the Monument, topography and land ownership pattern limit access to the Monument's proposed wilderness and off-site intrusions such as the lights of Vernal and the Uintah County Airport beacon.

4. DECISION: Identified a WSA with a boundary change in the southern portion of the unit.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: State section 32 crossing Daniels Canyon is essential to the integrity of the unit. The majority of commentators as well as the State of Utah's wilderness committee agree to the existence of wilderness characteristics. The problem of fragmented land ownership is less significant with Utah suggesting the possiblity of Federal acquisition of the state section. The lights of Vernal and the airport beacon were not considered that imposing.

The principle focal point for outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined types of recreation is in the northern one-third of the unit. In the southern portion, the terrain is more open, the vegetation takes the form of low shrubs and the imprints of man impinge the periphery of the unit. The southern, eastern and western portions of the unit contain protruding fingers of land. By adjusting the boundary, most of the imprints can be eliminated and the shape of the unit blocked. The areas of outstanding solitude and recreational value will be retained.

DANIELS CANYON



LEGEND

Inventory Unit Boundary

W.S.A.
NPS Proposed Wilderness

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT-080-415 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: MOONSHINE DRAW UNIT ACREAGE: 3,747

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 21 air miles east of Vernal, Utah. The west and a portion of the north boundaries border Dinosaur National Monument. The Park Service has formally recommended a portion of the contiguous area for wilderness designation. The east and south boundaries follow along unpaved roads on top of Blue Mountain. The eastern two-thirds is rolling terrain covered with shrub vegetation. The northeast corner consists of draws that plunge downward some 2,000 feet to the Green River. The southwest portion consists of broken terrain covered with pinyon-juniper stands with sagebrush parks interspersed.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE:

ACRES	UT
Initial & Intensive Inventory	3,747
Boundary Adjustment	-1,257
Proposed WSA	2,490
Identified WSA	0

The unit's acreage includes only land administered by the BLM.

B. NATURALNESS: The imprint of man is evident in the eastern half. Five reservoirs are present, two barbed-wire fences cross through the entire unit, and three ways intrude. During the first phase of the intensive inventory, the eastern portion of this unit was recommended to be dropped because of its lack of naturalness. Generally the western half still retains its natural appearance. The way in Doc's Valley is nearly overgrown and the fence on the western boundary is not highly visible.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Because of rough topography, high vegetation, and the contiguous Dinosaur National Monument, the western portion offers opportunities for solitude. The somewhat flat, low shrub covered terrain of the eastern half does not provide outstanding solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Standing alone, the unit provides minimum opportunities for hiking, horseback riding and photography. However, when the unit is considered in context with Yampa Plateau within the Dinosaur National Monument, these recreational opportunities are increased. From the Plateau, outstanding views of Split Mountain Canyon and the Green River are available.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Seven comments specifically addressed naturalness. Four of these comments concurred with the BLM analysis that this unit has remained natural. One comment cited evidence of recent cattle grazing in the unit. One comment cited outside sights and sounds as detracting from outstanding opportunities for solitude. Five comments concurred with BLM analysis. One comment stated that recreation opportunities are limited by rugged terrain and lack of vistas. Five comments cited range related conflicts associated with WSA identification. Three comments stated that the area is accessible only across private lands.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: After additional field checks and evaluation of public comments, the following conclusions were determined. The unit would serve only to provide a buffer zone around the Monument's proposed wilderness which is not part of the wilderness criteria. As a land bridge around Moonshine Draw to connect the Yampa Plateau and Ruple Point, both within the Monument, it would poorly serve this purpose. The only logical place to cross the steep plunging draw is at its head which is adjacent to the Douglas Chew Cabin. The cabin site has been traditionally used for livestock operations for many years. Human impacts are readily observable and imposing: two livestock ponds, corrals, fences and a frequently used line cabin. Also the addition of the BLM land would not link together areas recommended by the Park Service for wilderness. The Yampa Plateau was recommended but the contiguous area on Ruple Point was not recommended for wilderness. Therefore, this unit would not bridge areas proposed for wilderness.

Considered singularly, this unit has no wilderness recreational values nor would the area improve the values found within the Monument. Moonshine Draw is not a focal point or outstanding land feature within or outside the Monument. The addition of the BLM unit still would not complete the continuation of the landform concept. The head of the Draw is in private ownership.

For these reasons, the unit is judged as not having or contributing to the Monument's outstanding solitude or unconfined and primitive type recreational values.

MOONSHINE DRAW

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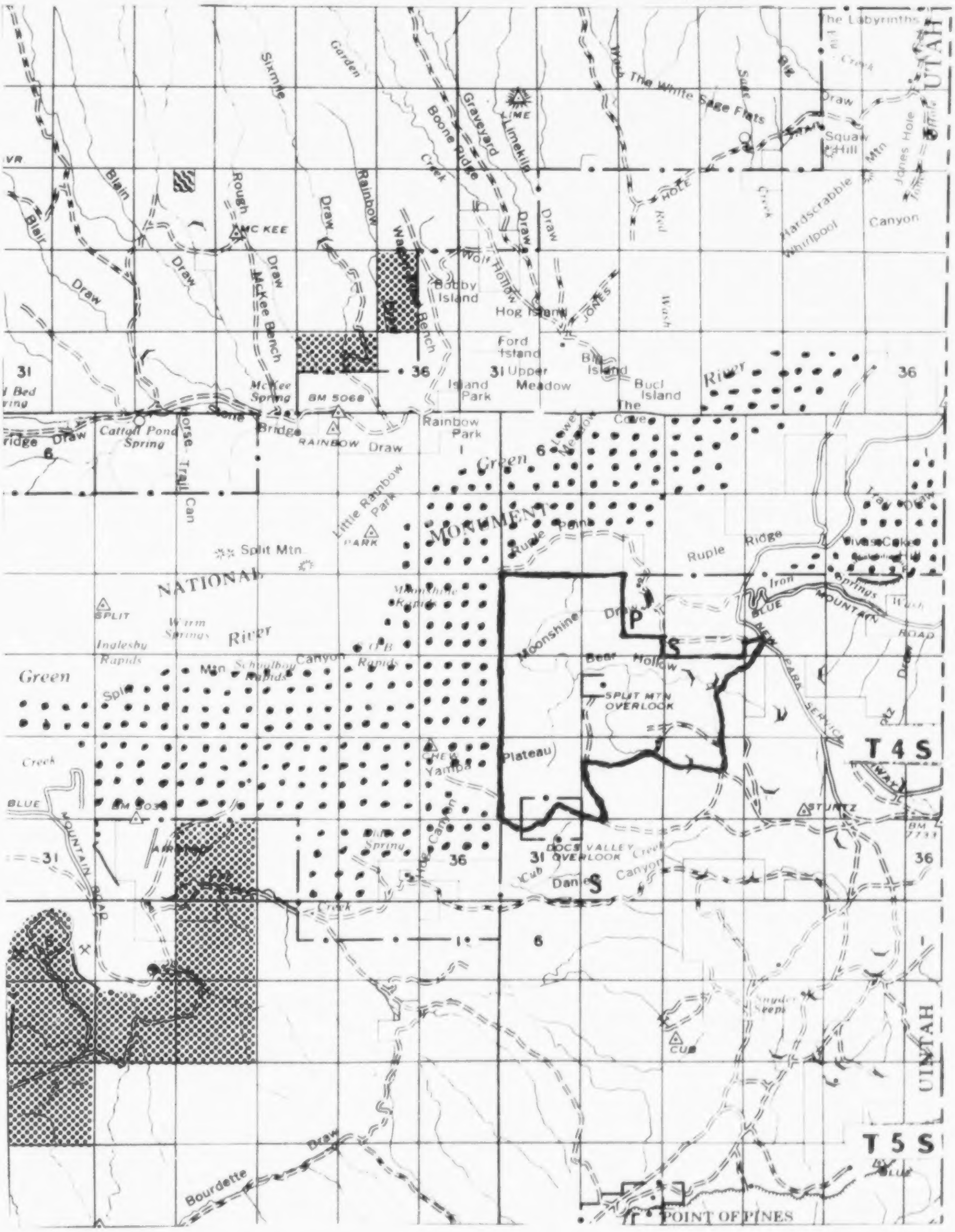


LEGEND

———	Inventory Unit Boundary
/////	WSA-BLM
· · · · ·	Proposed for Wilderness, NPS

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT 080-419/CO-010-001 | WSA ACREAGE: 520 (UT) 11,777 (CO)

UNIT NAME: BULL CANYON | UNIT ACREAGE: 986 (UT) 1A, 1B - 17,060 (CO)

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located along the Colorado-Utah border, north of U.S. 40 (Moffat County, Colorado; Uintah County, Utah).

During the initial inventory, two units, 1A and 1B, were combined. Field investigation during the fall of 1979 determined that the "road" separating the two units did not meet the road definition used in the BLM wilderness inventory.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit's acreage includes public land administered by the BLM. Private land, an inholding of 320 acres, and state land has not been inventoried or included in these figures.

ACRES	UT	CO	TOTAL
Initial inventory	986	17,060	18,046
Boundary adjustment	-466	-5,283	5,749
Proposed WSA	520	11,777	12,297

The Dinosaur National Monument road/right-of-way is located to the east. Minor boundary adjustments were made in Utah to exclude narrow, small pieces of public land extending from the bulk of the unit.

B. NATURALNESS: The Bull Canyon Unit offers a wide variety of topographic relief. The dominant features are the canyons created by eroded sandstone to form a highly scenic area.

Minor imprints of man can be found in the forms of a jeep trail and broken reservoir. These imprints do not represent significant surface disturbances. Natural revegetation is occurring which diminishes the visual impact. The bulk of the unit remains in a natural condition.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Due to the large size, blocked configuration, rugged topography and dense vegetation of the unit, the opportunities for solitude are outstanding. On the higher elevations in the unit, a visitor would be aware of wide open spaces, and have numerous vistas which can enhance a feeling of solitude. The canyons provide numerous opportunities to become isolated from other people.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The outstanding scenery of the canyon lands, interesting geology, and big game wildlife values of the unit contribute to a variety of primitve recreational opportunities. These include hunting, hiking, photography and wildlife and scenic viewing. The cumulative effect of the recreation resources gives this unit outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Historic: In 1776, the Dominquez/Escalante Expedition camped near the present location of K Ranch.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: One commentor felt that privately owned land both in the unit and adjoining the unit could cause access and management problems. Four out of the twelve comments addressing naturalness reported a series of jeep roads within the unit. Eight comments, generally, concurred with the BLM analysis. Ten out of thirteen comments addressing solitude stated that the unit offers opportunities for solitude because of size, landform, and vegetation types. Three comments cited off-site impacts as imposing on one's opportunity for solitude. Two comments cited steep cliffs and rugged terrain as severely restricting movement and scope of recreational activities. Seven comments agreed that the unit contains outstanding opportunities. Potential for oil/gas discoveries was stated as a mineral related conflict.

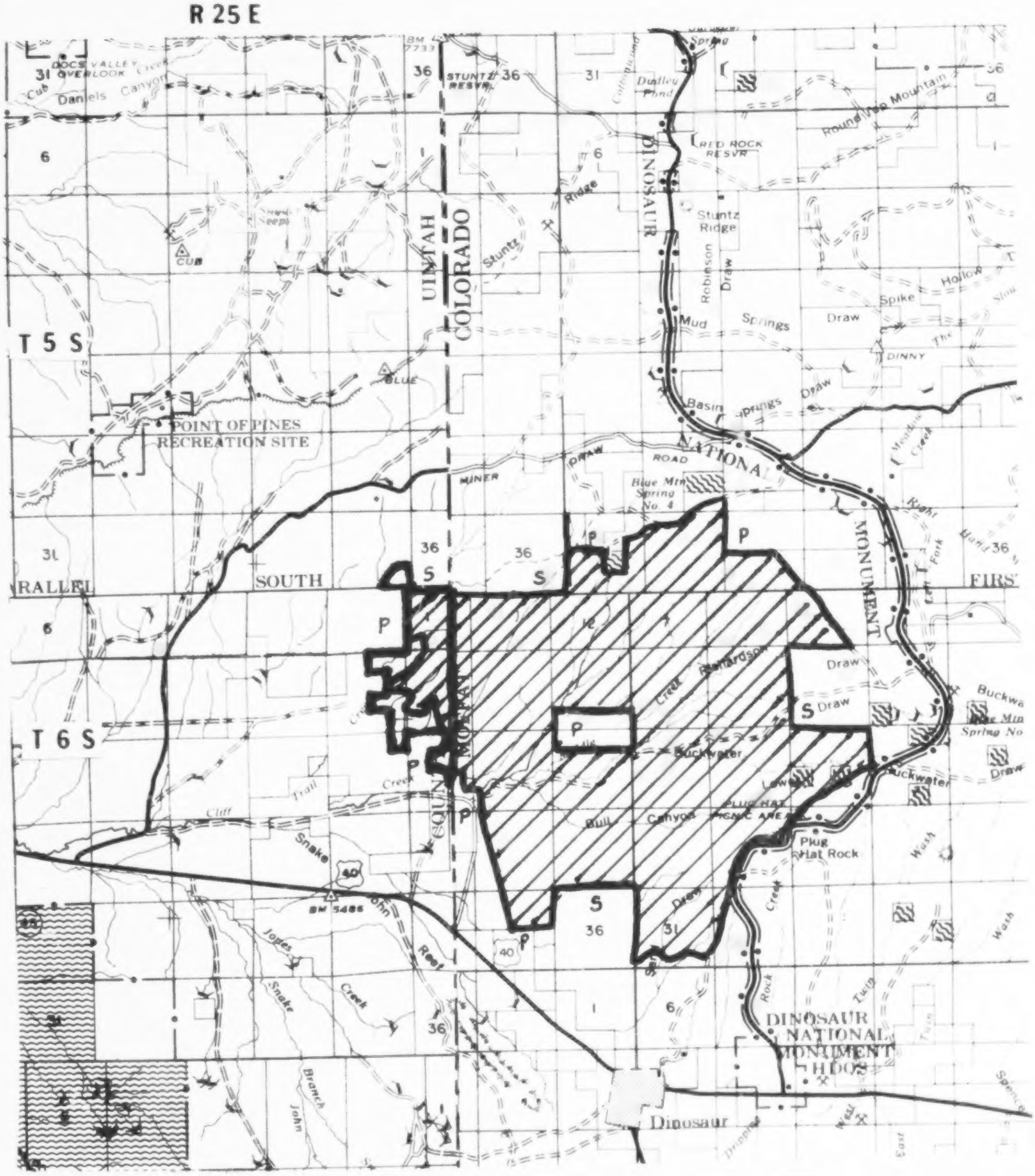
4. DECISION: This unit is identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: A number of comments identified the presence of jeep "roads" in the unit. A BLM field check has indicated the BLM does not have any information to confirm that the various ranching roads and fire roads are receiving periodic maintenance to insure regular and continuous use. The physical impacts of these ways is not considered significant due primarily to vegetative screening.

The imprints of man are few in number leaving the area in a natural condition. This area has been recognized and valued for its truly outstanding scenery. The area is the primary focus of two scenic overlooks developed by the National Park Service on the adjacent Dinosaur National Monument road. The highly eroded sandstone canyons provide numerous opportunities for solitude and primitve and unconfined recreation. The area meets all of the wilderness inventory criteria, therefore, it is identified as a Wilderness Study Area.

BULL CANYON

R 25 E



LEGEND

Inventory Unit Boundary

W.S.A.

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT 080-605 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: SAND WASH UNIT ACREAGE: 19,503

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies approximately 25 miles south of Myton, Utah, and 50 miles southwest of Vernal, Utah. It is bounded on the east by a nine-mile stretch of the Green River, the south boundary is the Sand Wash Road. The unit consists of the Little Desert Plateau, and the tributary drainages that cut the plateau in the eastern portion leading to the Green River.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit's acreage includes only public land administered by the BLM. The acreage figure differs slightly from that of the initial inventory due to refinements in mapping and acreage computation.

B. NATURALNESS: The unit consists of a portion of the Little Desert Plateau, the steep side slopes of tributary washes that lead to the Green River, and the west bank of a portion of the Green River. Vegetation of the flat to gently, rolling plateau consists of black sage, shadscale and shortgrass. Dominant vegetation along the river bottom is greasewood, tamerisk and cottonwood.

The southeastern corner of the unit contains Sand Wash boat launch facilities. The impact is very noticeable in the immediate area but is well screened by topography from the rest of the unit. Scattered imprints in the form of ways, fences, old drill pad, and a corral occur mostly around the perimeter of the unit with the overall impact not being significant.

D. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The major portion of the unit consists of the Little Desert Plateau. The open character of the plateau offers little opportunities for solitude. The plateau offers numerous overlooks down upon the lower terrace, the wash bottoms and the Green River bottoms, affecting the solitude if other users are present. The topography restricts use and movement, tending to confine users. Opportunities for solitude within the unit are limited and not outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The steep topography change from the upper plateau to the Green River bottom limits use and confines movement. The majority of the unit being the plateau of Little Desert offers little opportunity for an interesting or outstanding recreational experience. The dense greasewood vegetation along the river limits the desirability of hiking along the river bottom. The shape and size of the unit allow it to be easily traversed in one day, limiting the opportunities for unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLMENTAL VALUES: Three species of rare and endangered plant species are found within the unit:

Cryptantha grahamii - Graham catseye
Sclerocactus glaucus - Uinta Basin hookless cactus
Penstemen grahamii keck - Graham beardtongue

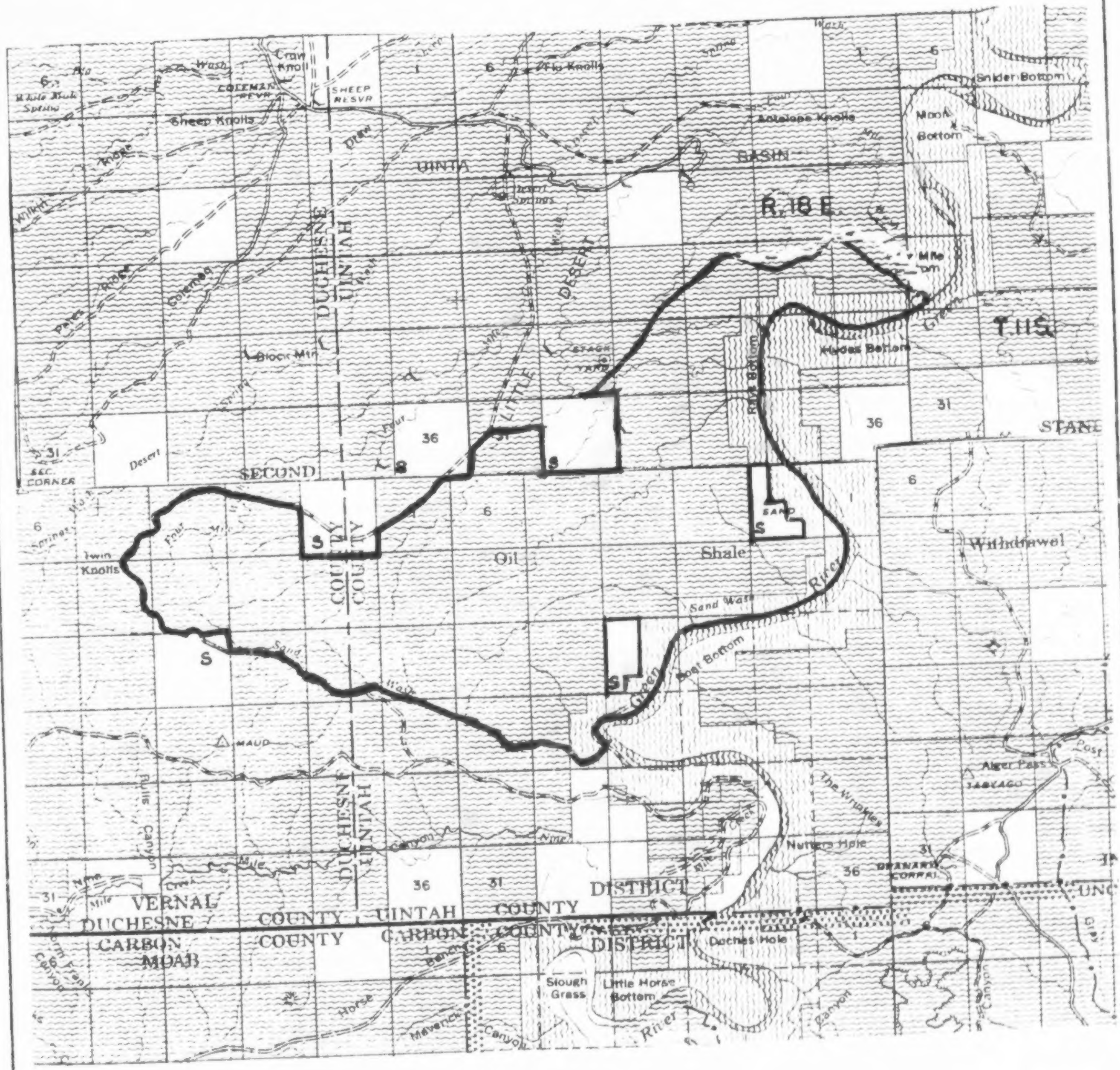
Socio-Cultural values are:

Sand Wash Ferry
Desolation Canyon National Historic Landmark

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Only three comments were received. One comment agreed with BLM's intensive inventory findings. The second only recommended the unit for WSA status but gave no reason. The third comment stated, "unconfined recreation . . . may not be the dominant value of the area." and the riparian habitat along the Green River needs protection for wildlife.

4. DECISION: The unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: This unit does not qualify for further wilderness study because outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are not present. The terrain restricts use and confines movement and the openness, and flatness offers little opportunity for solitude. The comments did not disagree with BLM's findings on solitude or recreational values, therefore, no change is being made in the original recommendation.



LEGEND

Inventory Unit Boundary

W.S.A.

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT 060-612/060-069 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: NINE MILE CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 20,040

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies approximately two miles west of the Green River and thirty-eight miles south of Myton, Utah. Nine Mile Creek flows through the northern portion of the unit. The Creek has formed a wide flat-bottomed canyon with steep rock walls and talus slopes. The unit consists of flat benchland and rolling lands cut by steep-walled drainages that lead to Nine Mile Canyon from the north and south. In the north and northeast portions of the unit, the vegetation is sparse, benchlands being of black sage and shadscale. Nine Mile Canyon bottom has lush riparian vegetation.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISITCS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 20,040 acres of BLM administered public land, of which 13,430 acres are within Moab District and 6,610 acres are within the Vernal District.

B. NATURALNESS: Various short ways occur on the flat benches adjacent to the north and south boundary roads; impact is minimal. Extensive gas production activities occur in the southwest corner of the unit with drill sites, pumping stations, pipelines, ways, and an airstrip. In the extreme southwest corner of the unit, man's activities are very noticeable. The rest of the unit retains its natural character with man's imprints substantially unnoticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Solitude is limited in the majority of the unit that consists of flat benchland and gradual sloped terrain that is covered by sparse low growing vegetation. As the elevation increases in the southwestern portion of the unit, the change to pinyon-juniper vegetation offers greater screening. Opportunities for solitude are not outstanding as solitude is not available on the benchlands and rolling unscreened terrain and in areas adjacent to the gas production activities in the southwest corner of the unit. The steep-walled canyons confine users to the narrow ribbon-like canyon bottoms allowing solitude for but a low number of users. The relatively short portion of Nine Mile Canyon limits the potential for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Nine Mile Canyon offers opportunities for petroglyph and geologic study but use is limited by the short length within the unit, each end being under state and private ownership. It would not be possible to hike the canyon to its confluence with the nearby Green River without leaving the unit. This confines movement and limits the quality and continuity of the experience of hiking the canyon bottom. Within the unit, a state-owned section crosses the canyon and breaks the continuity of public land ownership. Recreational opportunities of an outstanding nature are not available on the bench tops, rolling terrain, and canyon bottoms.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Nine Mile Canyon has sites of numerous prehistoric petroglyphs and other rock art.

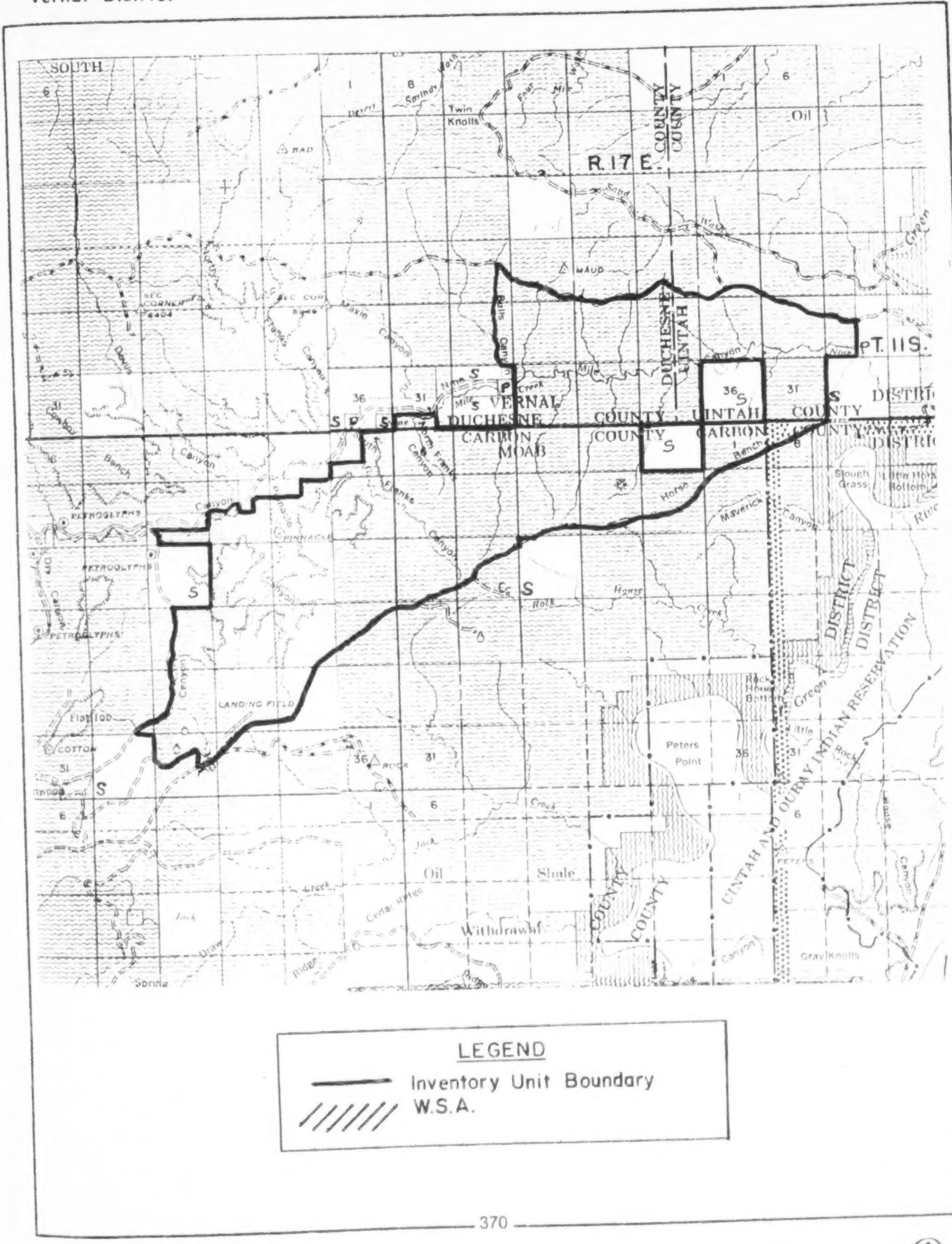
Rare and endangered plant species include:
Cryptantha grahamii - Graham catseye
Sclerocactus glaucus - Uintah Basin hookless cactus

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments were received. Only one of the comments agreed with BLM findings that the unit lacks outstanding solitude or recreational values. Two comments referred to the fact that few people would use this area thus solitude would be outstanding and terrain would offer a variety of unconfined recreation. The last comment was general in nature and recommended only further study.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: BLM field checks indicated that the terrain would confine uses to narrow ribbon-like canyons and the lack of screening on the prominent benchlands, would make solitude possible for only a few users. The broken land ownership pattern, the sights and sounds of extensive gas production activities in the southwest portion of the unit substantially impair the wilderness qualities. When considering these facts, the comments pertaining to lack of visitor use and the variety in terrain, is not sufficient support to change the BLM recommendation that this unit be dropped from further study.

UT 080-612
060-069



Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT 080-615 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: ARGYLE CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 36,460

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies approximately 23 mile south of Duchesne, Utah and 12 miles west of the Sand Wash launch site on the Green River. The unit has a wedge shaped configuration, being sandwiched between the Bad Land Cliffs to the north and Argyle Canyon to the south. The north boundary is National Forest land, Gate Canyon Road forms the east bondary and Argyle Canyon Road and private lands form the south boundary. The unit consists of terrain influenced by southerly drainages from the Bad Land Cliffs leading to Argyle Creek.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit's acreage includes only public land administered by the BLM. (The acreage figure differs from the initial inventory acreage figure due to refinements in mapping and acreage computation):

	Utah
Intial inventory	36,460
Boundary changes	0
Proposed WSA	0
Identified WSA	0

B. NATURALNESS: The terrain consists of southerly flowing drainages, canyons and ridges that lead from the south-facing escarpment of the Bad Land Cliffs to Argyle creek. Vegetation is predominantly pinyon-juniper which increases in density to the west. To the extreme west, vegetation changes to fir, spruce, mountain mahogany and scattered patches of aspen. The northeast portion is imprinted by ways, drill pads, and fences. Short ways and fences intrude the unit along the southern boundary. The majority of the unit remains in a natural condition.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The shape in relationship to the repetitious terrain and scattered pinyon-juniper vegetation does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Use patterns are restricted by the unit's shape in relationship to the terrain. The Bad Land Cliffs create a northern barrier. Use would be restricted to hiking in and out of short drainages from the south. The unit does not offer an outstanding or diversified setting for recreational activities to take place.

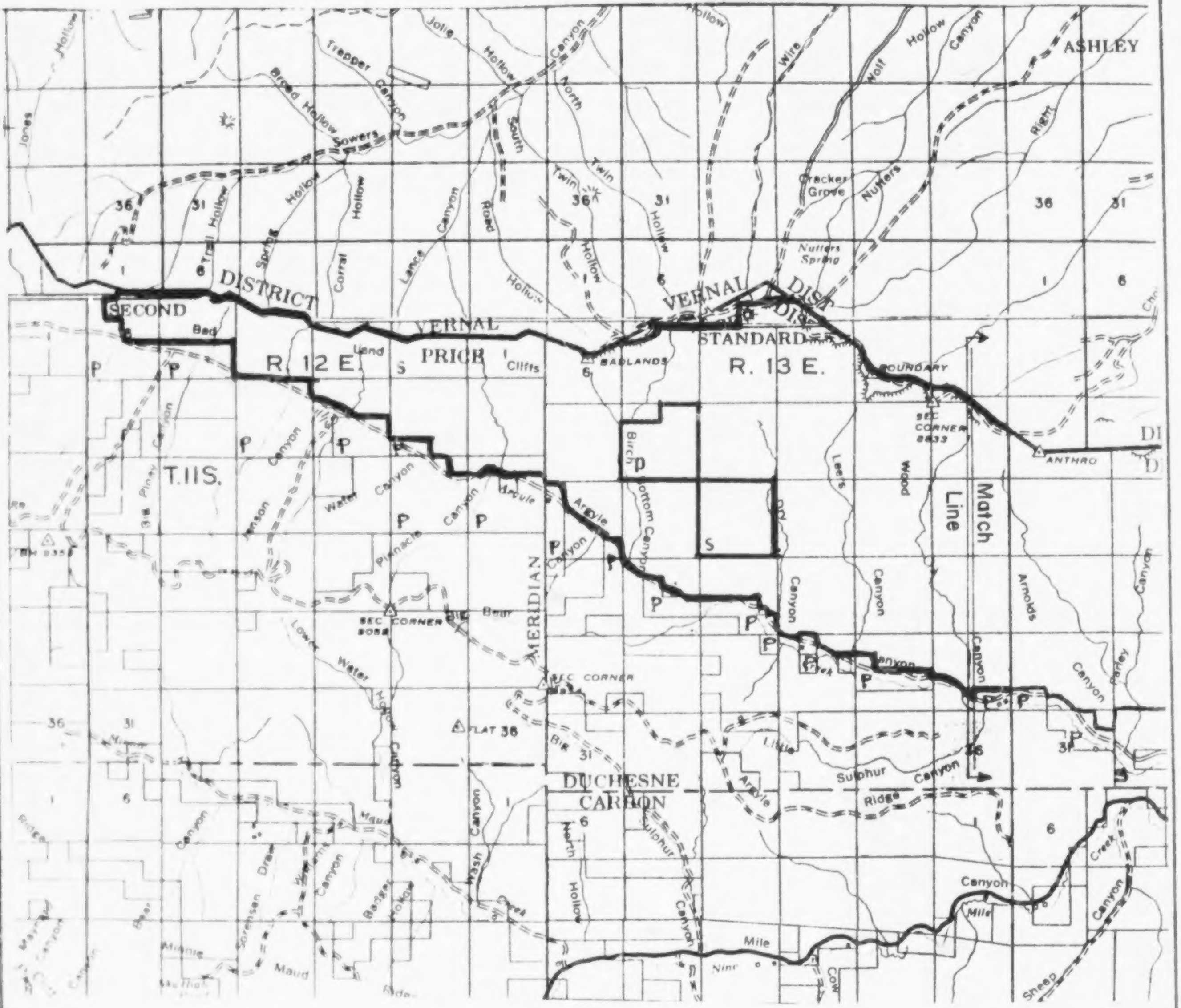
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Endangered plant species are:

Astragalus detritalis - Debris milkvetch
Erigonum hylophilum - Bad Lands buckwheat

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments were received. Two comments disagreed with establishing a wilderness study unit because signs of human presence can be found along the creek bottom and the lack of outstanding solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Of the other two comments, one cited minimal impacts exist and the other makes a general recommendation that this unit become a WSA.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No comments were received supporting the unit as having outstanding solitude or recreation potential which was the original bases for not proposing this unit a WSA. Therefore, on the basis of public comment, no changes will be made.



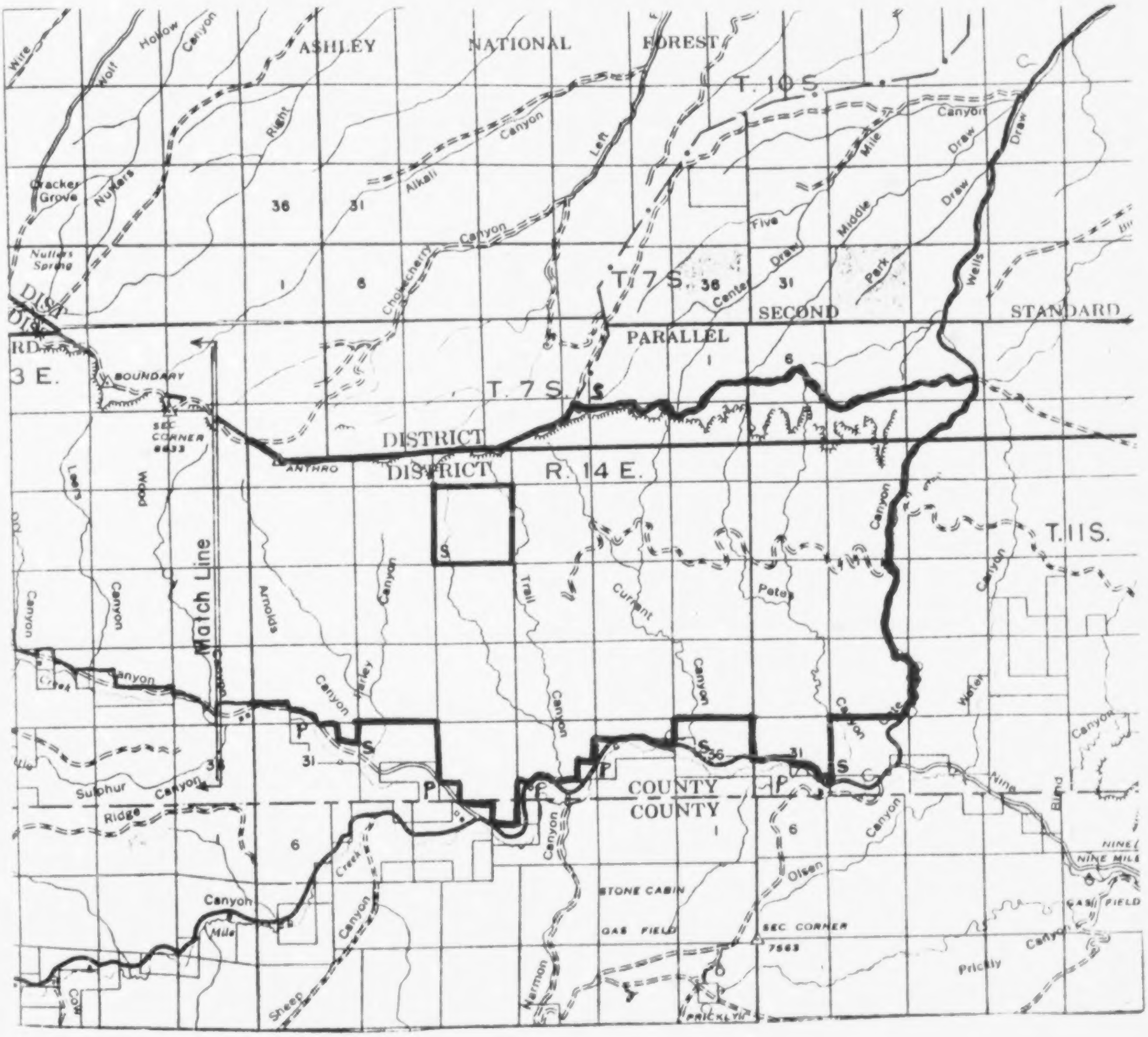
West Portion of Unit 080-615

LEGEND

Inventory Unit Boundary

W.S.A.

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.



East Portion of Unit 080-615

LEGEND

Inventory Unit Boundary

W.S.A.

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT 080-616 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: DEVILS CANYON UNIT ACREAGE: 11,120

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies 36 miles south of Myton, Utah and 15 miles west of Sand Wash boat launch site on the Green River. The unit is a parcel of land approximately four miles wide, lying between Wrinkle Road to the north and Nine Mile Canyon to the south.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 11,120 acres and straddles the Carbon-Duchesne County line with 6,917 acres in Duchesne County and 4,203 acres in Carbon County.

B. NATURALNESS: The terrain consists of flat benchland cut by small steep-walled canyons. The north wall of Nine Mile Canyon occurs along the south boundary of the unit, intermittently broken by private land ownership. Benchland vegetation is very sparse with semi-desert black sage-shadscale communities. Canyons consist of rock outcroppings and talus slopes. Imprints of man consist of two ways, a drill pad and fencing; the overall impact is negligible.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The flat benchland offers little opportunities for solitude. Solitude is available for a limited number of users in the bottoms of the meandering canyons.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Opportunities are limited on the flat benchlands. The interior canyon bottoms offer opportunities for hiking, sightseeing and geologic study. Such opportunities are limited due to the relative short length of the canyons and the canyon mouths being outside of the unit. Dispersal ability would be low and the unit could accommodate but a small number of users as there are only two small canyons within the unit.

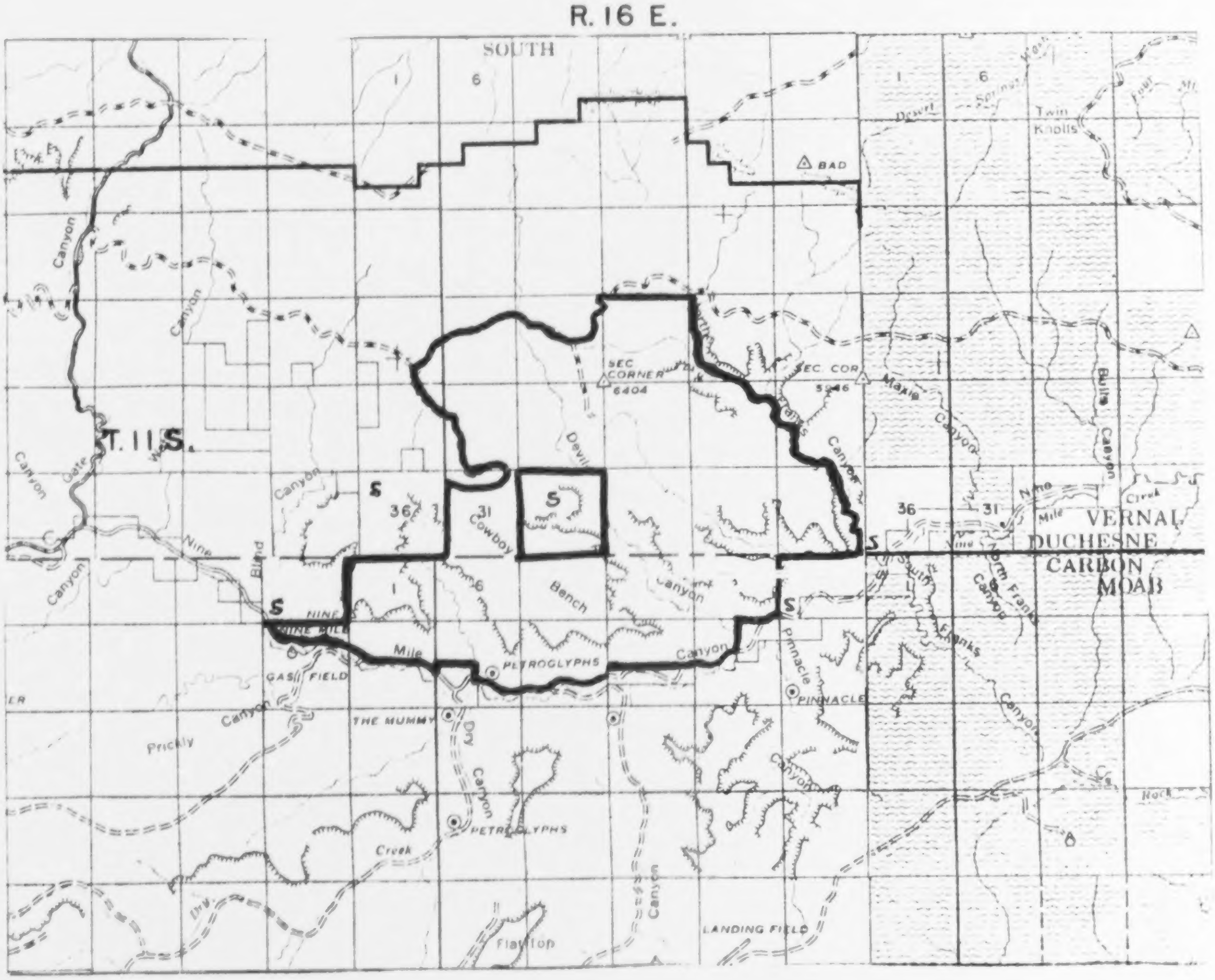
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: A portion of the north wall of Nine Mile Canyon occurs within the unit. Nine Mile Canyon is on the state Register of Historic Places and is nominated to the National Register. There are many cultural resource sites of prehistoric origin evidenced by numerous petroglyphs and other rock art.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Three comments were received. One commentator stated that impacts are minimal, the unit remains in a natural state, and that the area is critical as habitat for some western wildlife and flora species. The other two comments gave no information about the unit but only agreed or disagreed with the BLM recommendation.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No new information about the unit was presented in the three comments received. One comment specific to the unit stated that impacts were minimal and confirmed the field inventory. Because of the unit's small size land ownership pattern landscape broken by steep walled draws, recreation and solitude characteristics were not rated outstanding. No comments disagreed with this BLM finding.

Because of a lack of outstanding, unconfined, or primitive recreation or solitude, this unit does not qualify for further wilderness study.



LEGEND

Inventory Unit Boundary

W.S.A.

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT 080-707 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: EAST BIG PACK MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE: 5,775

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located 42 air miles southwest of Vernal, Utah. Private and state lands along Willow Creek form the east, south and north boundaries. On the west, the boundary is the Pack Mountain Loop Road.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 5,775 acres of public land. The shape of this area is nearly rectangular. The average width is 1 1/2 miles and the length is 5 miles.

B. NATURALNESS: No structures, ways or developments exist within the unit - only a seismograph line that parallels the western boundary road. The unit generally appears natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: It would be difficult to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people in this unit because of its small size, sparse and open vegetation pattern, and the presences of long sight distances. There is not a wide variety of topographic relief. Opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Due to its small size, this unit contains only a portion of the Big Pack Mountain landform, thus limiting freedom of movement. Scenic views are rated as moderate and no outstanding recreational focal point exists.

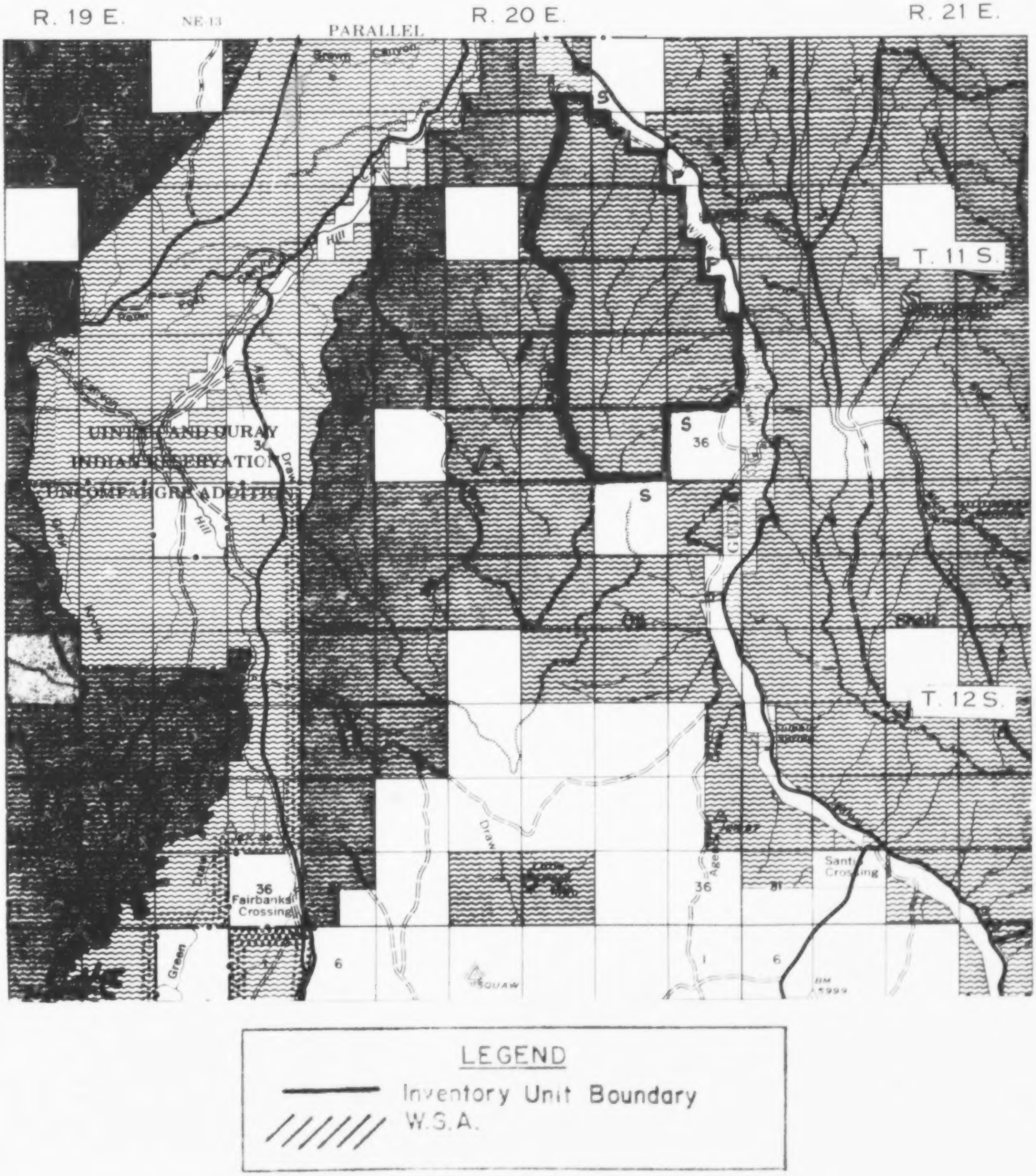
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: A plant listed as endangered is suspected to be growing in this unit. The plant is known as Graham catseye, Cryptantha grahamii.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Three comments were received. One comment cited that the unit lacks screening thus detracting from an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Another stated that the unit has nothing spectacular to attract outstanding opportunities for recreation. The last comment agreed with the findings of the BLM intensive inventory.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No new information was received to change the original recommendation. Comments received agreed with BLM's findings that the unit lacks "outstanding opportunities", therefore, no changes were made.

EAST BIG PACK MTN.



Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT 080-708 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: BIG PACK MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE: 7,730

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located 42 air miles southwest of Vernal, Utah and consists of the eastern one-third of Big Pack Mountain. Its shape is nearly rectangular, the average width being 1 1/2 miles and the length about 5 miles. Private and state lands along Willow Creek form the east, south and north boundaries. On the west, the unit boundary is the Pack Mountain Loop Road. The area is characterized by open, barren, rocky landscape, dry washes and exposed earth protected only by sparse vegetation.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERTISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 7,730 acres of public land.

B. NATURALNESS: The imprint of man is substantially unnoticeable. No significant structures, ways or developments were found - only a seismograph line that parallels the eastern boundary road for 1 1/2 miles, a rustic corral and a restored drill pad.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Limited opportunity for solitude are available in the unit because of the inability of a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of others. The unit is small, the terrain open and sparsely vegetated, and the lack of screening potential permits long sight distances.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The starkness of the terrain provides a certain fascination to the hiker. However, the small size of the unit, lack of prominent features or focal points and the presence of only moderate scenic views do not qualify this unit as having outstanding recreation potential.

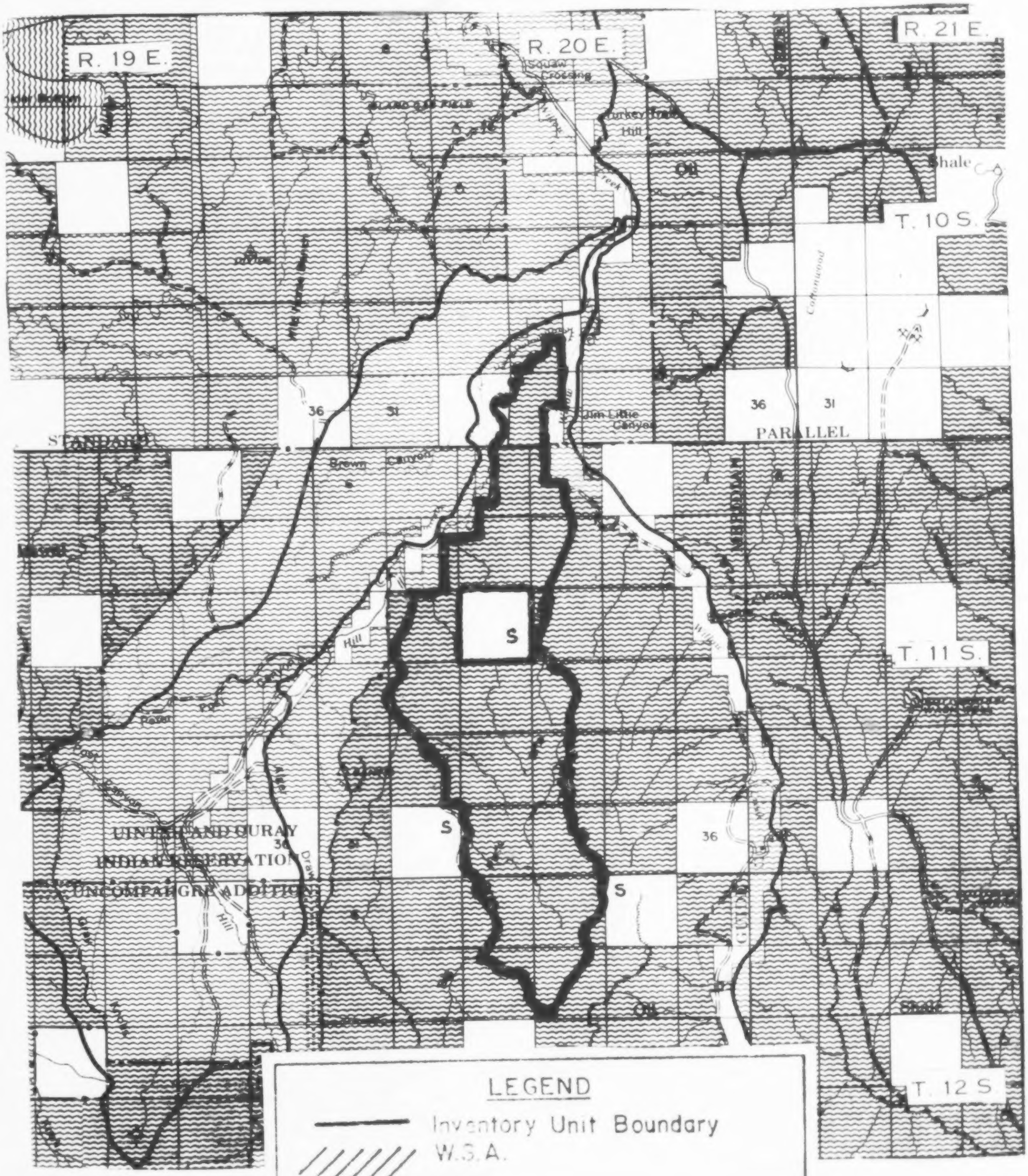
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There is the probability of an endangered plant, Graham catseye (*Cryptantha gramaii*), growing in this unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Three comments were received. Two of these comments agreed with the BLM proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness study. The third comment recommended that BLM intensively study for wilderness classification.

4. DECISION: The unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No new information was presented, therefore, the proposal will remain unchanged.

BIG PACK MTN.



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UNIT NO.: UT 080-709 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: WEST PACK MOUNTAIN UNIT ACREAGE: 9,815

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit lies forty-four miles southwest of Vernal, Utah in the Pack Mountain area. A tilted plateau lined with steep slopes and rimrock is characterized by open, barren, rock landscape, dry washes; exposed earth protected only by erosion pavement or sparse vegetation. The unit consists of the western and southern one-third of Big Pack Mountain.

State and private land and the Johnson Draw road from the southern boundary, the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation forms the west and north boundaries and the Big Pack Mountain Loop Road borders the unit on the east.

2. WILDERNESS CHARCTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 9,815 acres of public land.

B. NATURALNESS: The natural character has been retained. Three ways and a seisomographic trail pass through the unit, however, they do not substantially affect the natural appearance of the landscape. The only other imprint is a stock reservoir which has a minor impact.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The unit offers limited opportunities for solitude due to its small size, openness and lack of vegetative screening. The narrow shape confines movement within the unit and limits a visitor's opportunity to find privacy from others.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: A broad view of outstanding quality is available from the rim of the plateau. Hiking is probably the best suited activity but is rated poor because of the unit's configuration. State land nearly pinches off access to the northern and eastern portions. Also, areas near the rim with the greatest variety in landform and vegetation are on non-federal property. Overall, recreational opportunities are limited.

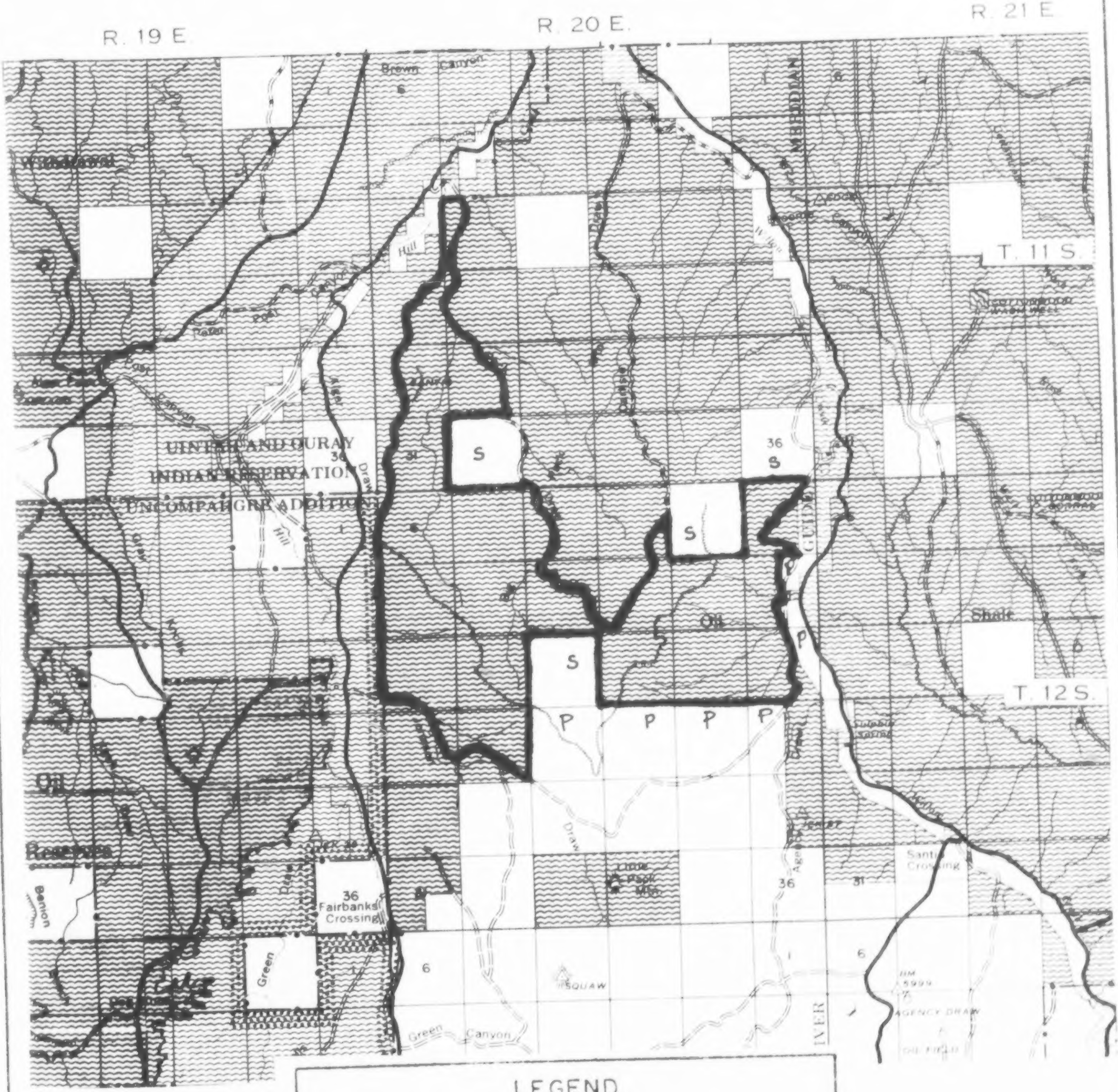
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There is the probability of an endangered plant, Graham catseye (*Cryptantha grahamii*) growing in this unit.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments were received. Two of these comments agreed with BLM's intensive inventory and unit recommendation. The third comment recommend that the unit be intensively studied for wilderness characteristics. The last comment stated that because of the outstanding view, the unit meets the WSA criteria.

4. DECISION: The unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The panoramic view from Pack Mountain is the primary element considered in defining primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities within the unit. The better observation points are along the southern rim of Pack Mountain with the best view points from the southern tip of the Mesa. This area is outside the unit on private land. The view is not unique in that similar panoromas are available, especially from the east side of Willow Creek. Hunting, hiking, botanical sightseeing, and horseback riding were judged to be only fair within the unit. Consideration of all factors as well as the lack of screening, broken land ownership and the shape of the unit, solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding.

WEST BIG PACK MTN.



LEGEND

Inventory Unit Boundary

////// W.S.A.

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT-080-715 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: BITTER CREEK UNIT ACREAGE: 14,463

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The area is 68 road miles south of Vernal, Utah and the north boundary is the road between Bitter Creek Corral and the Kings Well Road. The southeast boundary follows the Kings Well and non-federal property lines. The western boundary consists of the road from Bitter Creek Corral to the southern portion of Kings Well Road.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The size of the unit is 14,463 acres. Contiguous state and private property give this unit a distorted triangular shape. Terrain consists of gently rolling hills. Bitter Creek Canyon, a dominant feature, cuts through the center of the unit. In some locations, perennial water flows. The water is brackish and not potable. Dominant vegetation consists of big and black sage, and greasewood. Open stands of pinyon-juniper grown on the hillsides and higher elevations.

B. NATURALNESS: Six ways totaling some ten miles intrude the unit. Two are significant because they are visible from distances and show signs of repeated use. A bulldozed seismograph line runs across the unit. Other imprints of less importance consist of an abandoned oil drill site, a water well and a metal grain storage bin.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: When the size of the unit is considered in relation to the rolling topography and sparse vegetation, the area is not adequately large enough to provide for a feeling of outstanding solitude. In many places, a visitor can easily look across the unit to the other side, thus other parties would be visible. In Bitter Creek Canyon where sight distances are short, solitude is present but not outstanding.

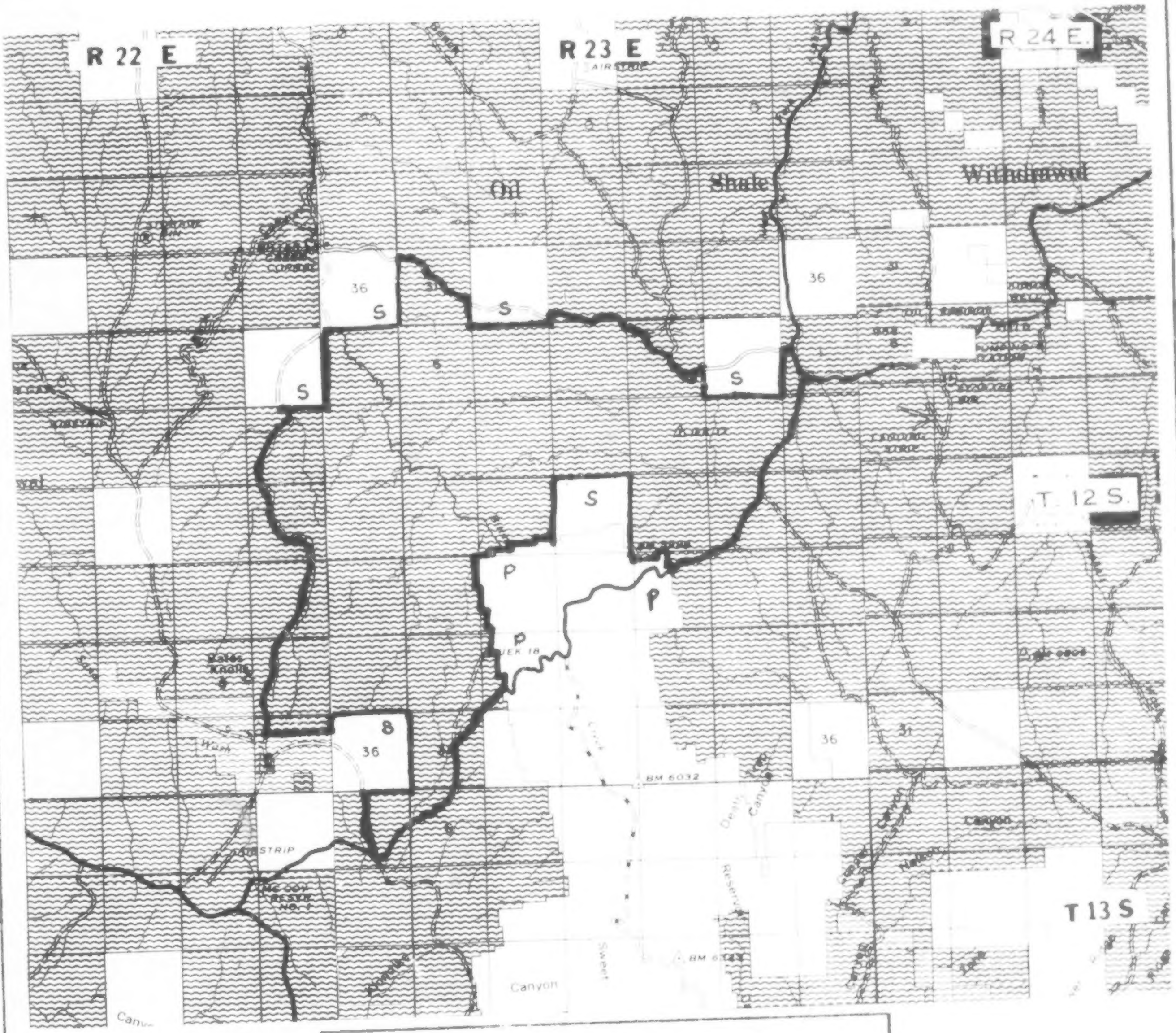
2. PRIMITVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The openness of the terrain and the triangular configuration permit the visitor to hike across the unit within a few hours. Size limits unconfined recreation. Dense greasewood and brackish stream water in Bitter Creek also detract from the recreational opportunties.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Six comments were recei.ed. Four of these comments agreed with BLM's intensive inventory findings that the unit does not have outstanding naturalness, solitude or primitive and unconfined type recreation. The other two comments recommended that the unit becomes a wilderness study area; however, both comments were general and gave no reason or criteria for qualifying as having outstanding wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Due to a lack of specific public information or opinion pertaining to outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, the proposal on this unit will remain unchanged. The majority of public comments agree with dropping the unit from further study.

BITTER CREEK



LEGEND

Inventory Unit Boundary

W.S.A.

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT 080-721 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: ATCHEE RIDGE UNIT ACREAGE: 13,853 (UT)

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies 55 air miles southeast of Vernal, Utah along the Utah-Colorado border on Atchee Ridge. The unit is oblong in shape; 6 miles long and 2 to 3 miles wide. Boundaries follow along the Rector Ridge Road on the west, the Atchee Ridge Road on the south, Davis Canyon Road on the east and the private land and Evacuation Wash Road on the north. The unit is composed of three side ridges and canyons of the much larger terrain feature, Atchee Ridge. Pinyon-juniper dominates with Douglas fir growing in small stands on the steep north slopes.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit contains 13,853 acres in Utah and 720 acres in Colorado of public land.

B. NATURALNESS: In the southern portion, several ways intrude the unit, both on ridgetops and in Dragon Canyon. The Dragon Canyon way passes through the entire length of the unit. An operating oil well is located in the northeastern corner. The area does not appear to be natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Natural screening is good because of the density of the pinyon-juniper forest types. However, natural travel corridors are limited to a few canyon bottoms or ridgetops. This limits the ability of a user to find secluded spots and freedom of movement with a minimal amount of contact with others.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Movement is confined by the ridge-canyon landform, as slopes off the ridges are very steep thereby limiting hiking and horseback riding opportunities. The lack of continuous federal ownership prevents access down Atchee Canyon or Atchee Ridge, a dominant land feature within the unit. Therefore, the unit does not possess outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four of the five comments received were against WSA identification. Reasons sited included substantial existing man-made intrusions, such as ways and fences and that wilderness designation would lock out opportunities for mineral production.

The other comment requested BLM to study the area for wilderness characteristics and its supplemental wildlife values.

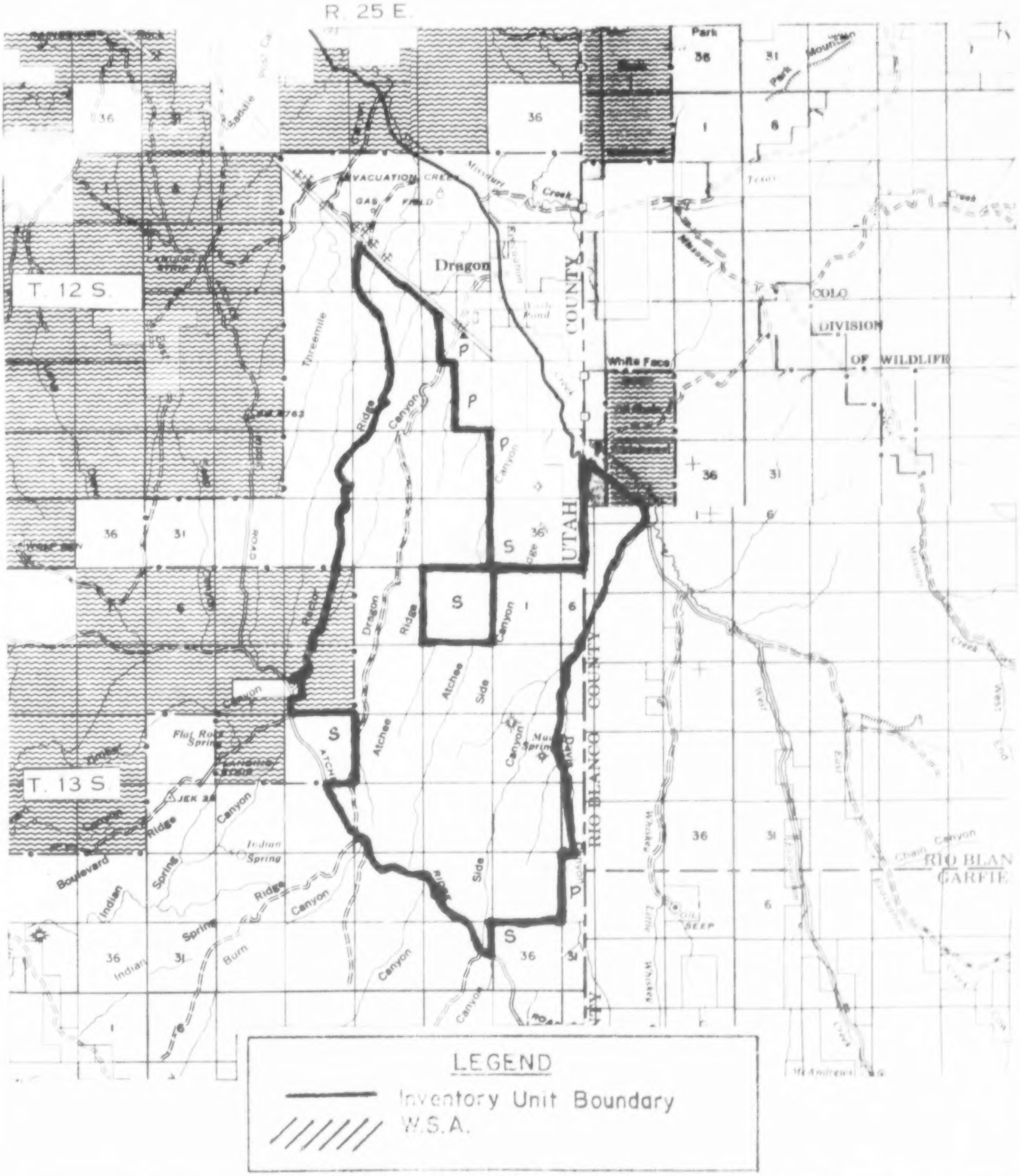
4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE DECISION: BLM findings during the intensive inventory were that the unit does not appear to be natural, nor does it offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type recreation. Principle reasons are that intrusion ways significantly detract from naturalness, the shape of the unit imposes on solitude and the landform doesn't lend itself to outstanding recreational activities. Because public comments generally agreed with BLM's findings, no changes to the proposal are being made.

Bureau of Land Management
Vernal District

UT-080-721
CO-010-50

ATCHEE RIDGE



Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO.: UT 080-722 WSA ACREAGE: 0

UNIT NAME: RAT HOLE UNIT ACREAGE: 8,160 (Utah)

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: Located 70 air miles southeast of Vernal, Utah, the unit lies near the Colorado-Utah line near the head of Atchee Ridge. The unit generally covers a spur ridge that is rectangularly shaped, about four miles long and three miles wide. It is bordered by Bitter Creek and Rat Hole Canyons. The top of Rat Hole Ridge is the main topographic feature. It is mildly rolling and densely covered with brush and scattered pinyon-juniper trees. Side drainages are narrow, steep and rugged. Small stands of Douglas fir grow on the north slopes.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 8,160 acres of public land administered by the BLM. During the intensive inventory, a boundary adjustment of 2,017 acres was made to delete inholdings of State and private property which nearly divided the unit into two parts.

Acres	Utah	Colorado	Total
Initial inventory	10,177	1,533	11,710
Intensive inventory	10,177	1,533	11,710
Boundary adjusted	8,160	0	8,160

B. NATURALNESS: The major intrusion is a way (jeep trail) that runs the full length of the top of Rat Hole Ridge. The wheel tracts are deeply eroded into the surface. The way is obtrusive and detracts from naturalness. Two oil well drilling pads and access road have been built on the north side of the unit. These are very visible from observation points along the top of the ridge. Because of the location and visibility of the way and drilling pads, the imprint of man is evident and the unit not be considered natural.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The top of Rat Hole Ridge is the natural travel corridor for the unit where visitors would spend most of their time. Vegetative screening is good but the topographic screening is poor due to the rolling landform. Considering the small size of the ridge top, there is insufficient room to give the feeling of isolation from other visitors or from existing imprints of man.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Due to the lack of special features or any quality form of primitive and unconfined recreation, this unit does not meet the oustanding criteria.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: None.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Four comments were received. One comment agreed with BLM intensive inventory findings. Two other comments stated that the unit failed to meet outstanding naturalness criteria and referred to the oil/gas development potential. The last comment requested wildlife values to be considered as a supplemental attribute.

4. DECISION: **This unit is not identified as a WSA.**

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Three of the four comments received agreed with BLM findings. The way down the center of Rat Hole Ridge and the oil well drilling pads and access road are significant intrusions. The unit does not meet the criteria for having naturalness. Wildlife values are present but the area through BLM land use planning system is not considered a critical wildlife habitat area. As a result of public comment, no changes will be made to the proposal.

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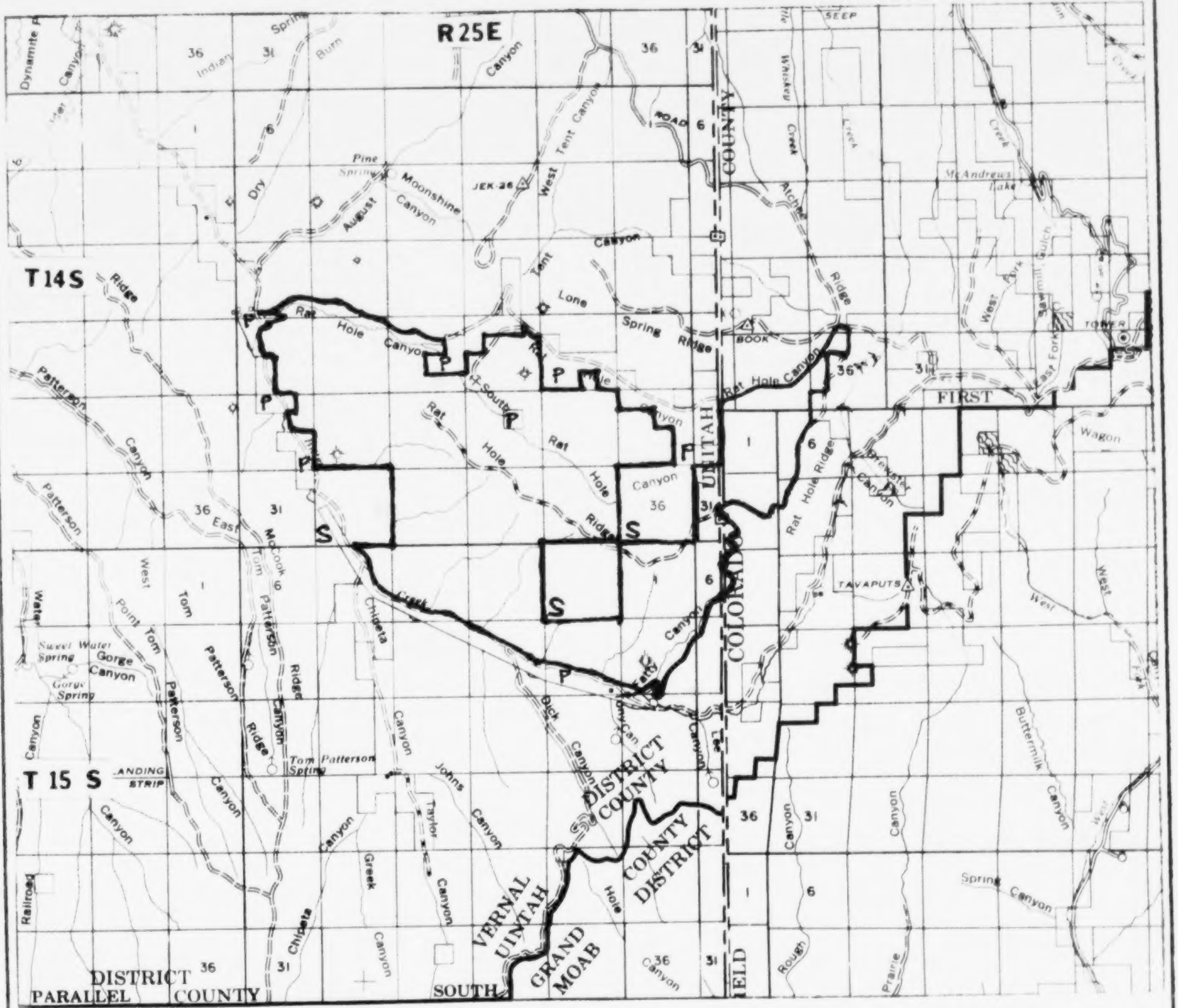
UT-080-722

RAT HOLE RIDGE



LEGEND

Inventory Unit Boundary

W.S.A.

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

UNIT NO. UT 080-13[illegible] WSA ACREAGE: [illegible]

UNIT NAME WINTER RIDGE UNIT ACREAGE: 43,963

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: Located [illegible] air miles south of Vernal, Utah, the unit is bordered on the east by Seep Ridge, Pine Spring and Main Canyon Roads. Winter Ridge Road forms the southern boundary. Bull Canyon Road and private property along Willow Creek form the western boundary. On the north, the unit is bounded by the Wood Canyon Road. Topography consists of long, flat-topped ridges divided by shallow canyons and vegetated by pinyon-juniper with interspersed sagebrush parks.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The unit contains 43,963 acres of public land and encloses approximately 3,200 acres of state, 160 acres of private or 3% non-federal land. Having a rectangular shape, the unit averages 5 miles wide and 12 miles in length.

B. NATURALNESS: Man's imprint is evident and significantly affects naturalness. Major imprints consist of two producing natural gas wells, a State of Utah wildlife field station at Pine Springs, a 1000-acre pinyon-juniper chaining, five ways that intrude the southern boundary and a 4-inch steel pipeline that runs along the northern boundary.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: Outstanding solitude exists through Main Canyon and the center of the unit to Winter Ridge. The twisting sandstone walls of Main Canyon give a feeling of intimacy and screen out intrusions above and to the north. Onward to the south, the broad ridgetops vegetated with pinyon-juniper and the frequent shallow side canyons provide excellent screening.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Scarcity of water, sameness in vegetation patterns, repetitious terrain, and lack of prominent observation points are reasons that the unit does not provide a unique or spectacular outdoor experience.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: A small band of wild horses resides within the boundaries of this unit year-round. A plant species on the endangered list may grow there - Graham catseye and oil-impregnated sands are exposed in canyon bottoms.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Nineteen comments were received. Six of the ten comments addressing naturalness stated the unit is not natural due to man-made impacts.

Thirteen comments addressed solitude. Of these, ten comments stated that the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude due to size, vegetation type, topography and remoteness.

Eight of thirteen comments addressing recreation stated that the unit has outstanding opportunities. Recreational opportunities include hunting, hiking, horseback riding and backpacking. Five comments state that the unit lacks recreation potential because of scarcity of potable surface water and lack of scenic values.

One comment cites high potential energy acreage in unit as a mineral related conflict.

4. DECISION: This unit is not identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Comments received on naturalness state that man's imprints are evident and significant. Comments referred to wheel tracks, improvements for livestock including the Pine Springs chaining, and mineral exploration and production activities along the east side of the unit. The field inventory varifies these comments.

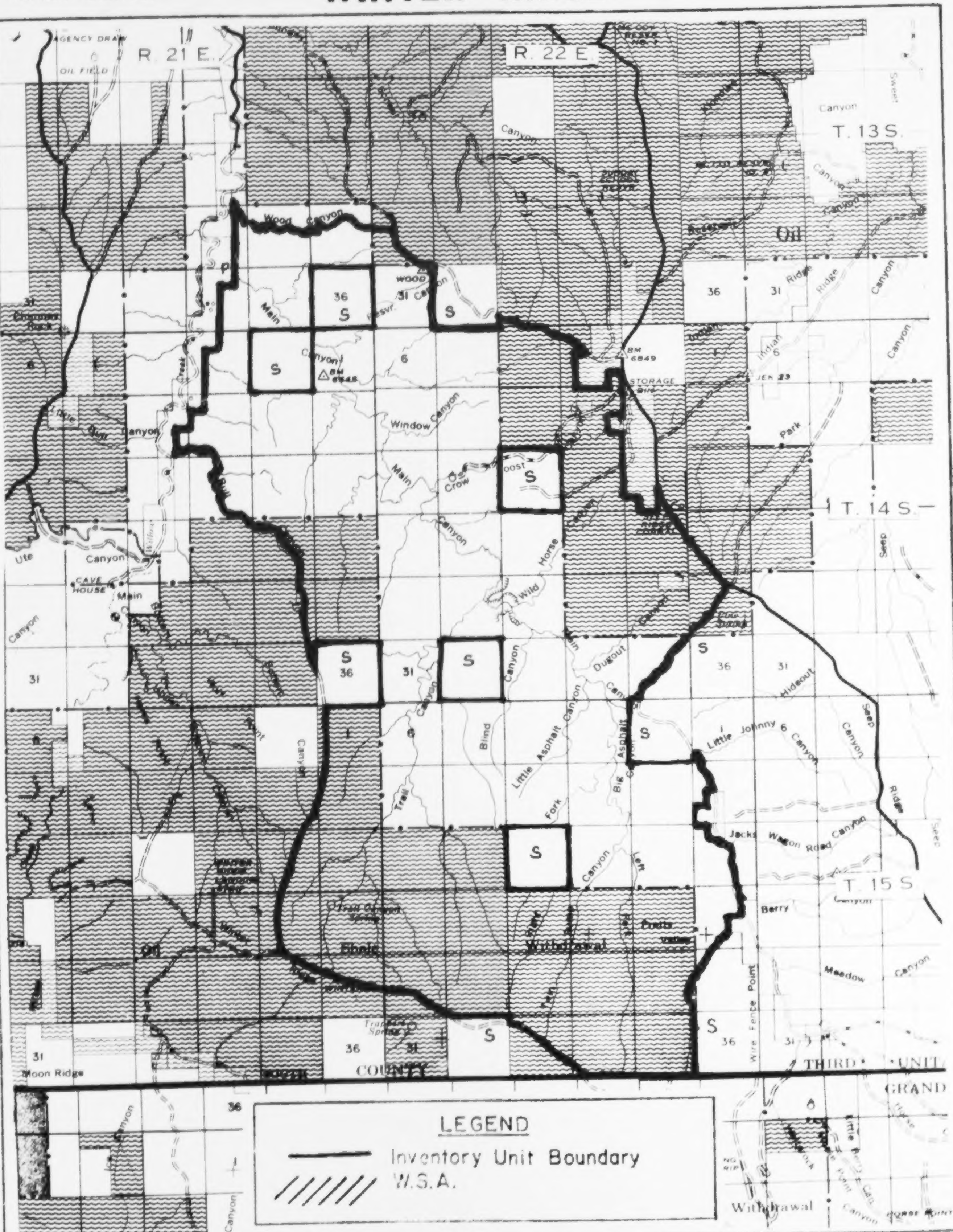
A public field trip was taken to this unit. Consensus of the ten participants was that the unit's naturalness was questionable.

Because of the lack of naturalness, this area does not qualify for further wilderness study.

Bureau of Land Management
Vernal District

WINTER RIDGE

UT-080-730



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INSTANT STUDY AREAS

District	Contains Wilderness characteristics	Lacks Wilderness characteristics
Cedar City District (040)		
North Escalante Canyon (ISA)	X	
The Gulch (ISA)	X	
Phipps-Death Hollow (ISA)	X	
Escalante Canyons (ISA)		
Tract 1		X
Tracts 2, 3, 4	X	
Tract 5	X	
Moab District (060)		
Grand Gulch Primitive Area (ISA)	X	
Dark Canyon Primitive Area (ISA)	X	

INSTANT STUDY AREA NAME: NORTH ESCALANTE CANYON, THE GULCH, PHIPPS-DEATH HOLLOW, and ESCALANTE CANYONS (TRACTS 2, 3, and 4)

UNIT ACREAGE: 141,743

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The ISA in Garfield County is located about five miles east of the town of Escalante.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The ISA contains 141,743 acres of public lands and encloses 9,491 acres of State lands. It contains all of the North Escalante Canyon Outstanding Natural Area (5,800 acres), all of the Gulch Outstanding Natural Area (3,430 acres), twelve acres of the Phipps-Death Hollow outstanding Natural Area, three separate tracts (80 acres, 80 acres, 320 acres) of the Escalante Canyons Outstanding Natural Area, and 132,021 acres of contiguous public lands. All of the outstanding natural areas were designated December 23, 1970. The area with wilderness characteristics contains 120,307 acres of public lands and encloses 8,901 acres of State lands. The Instant Study Area is contiguous to lands in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area which have been formally identified as having wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the ISA appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The substantially noticeable intrusions within the ISA are three ways on Big Flat which lead to developed springs; roads, ways, and a borrow pit on Spencer Flat; the old alignment of the Harris Wash road; the road on "The V;" the powerline along Utah Highway 12; the Boulder town dump; two gravel pits near Deer Creek; and four areas in the Circle Cliffs which have been impacted by mineral exploration activities. The area possessing the naturalness characteristic contains 131,248 acres of public lands. The imprints of man which are substantially noticeable are found on 10,495 acres of public lands.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The ISA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the size of the area and its topography. Deep, meandering canyons provide topographic screening and views are generally less than one-half mile. Abundant vegetation in some of the canyons enhances the opportunities for solitude by providing vegetative screening. Areas such as King Bench, Brigham Tea Bench, Big Bowns Bench, and Little Bowns Bench also offer opportunities for solitude because they are isolated geographically by steep cliffs. The several access points into the canyon system tend to disperse use within the ISA. The nature of the topography provides opportunities to find isolation and seclusion in most of the area that is natural. The exceptions include most of Big Spencer Flats and Big Flat, Tenmile Flat, and Seep Flat, all adjacent to the Hole-in-the-Rock road. The total sizes of the areas that exhibit naturalness but lack outstanding solitude is 10,941 acres. The size of the area that possesses both naturalness and outstanding solitude is 120,307 acres.

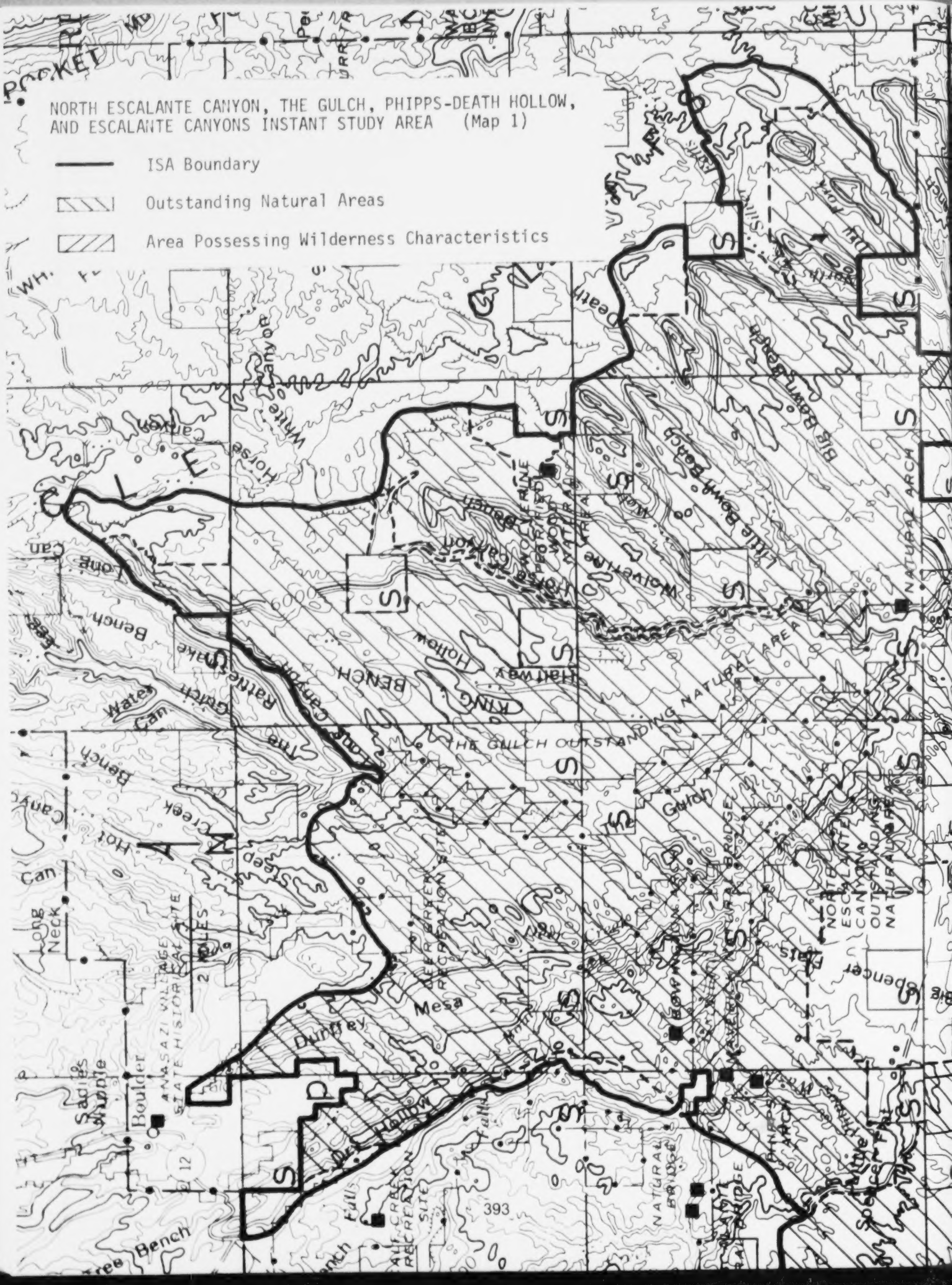
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The ISA provides outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation activities such as camping, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, photography, and sightseeing for geological, historical, and archeological features. Some fishing opportunities are available in Deer Creek. The recreational opportunities available in the Escalante River canyon system have been widely publicized in books and magazines having nationwide circulation. The recreational opportunities within the ISA are even more significant when considered in conjunction with the opportunities in the adjacent Glen Canyon National Recreational Area. There are four areas within the area that possesses naturalness that lack outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. These areas correspond to the areas that also lack outstanding solitude and include 10,941 acres in Big Spencer Flats, Big Flat, Tenmile Flat, and Seep Flat. The size of the area that possesses both naturalness and outstanding primitive recreation opportunities is 120,307 acres.

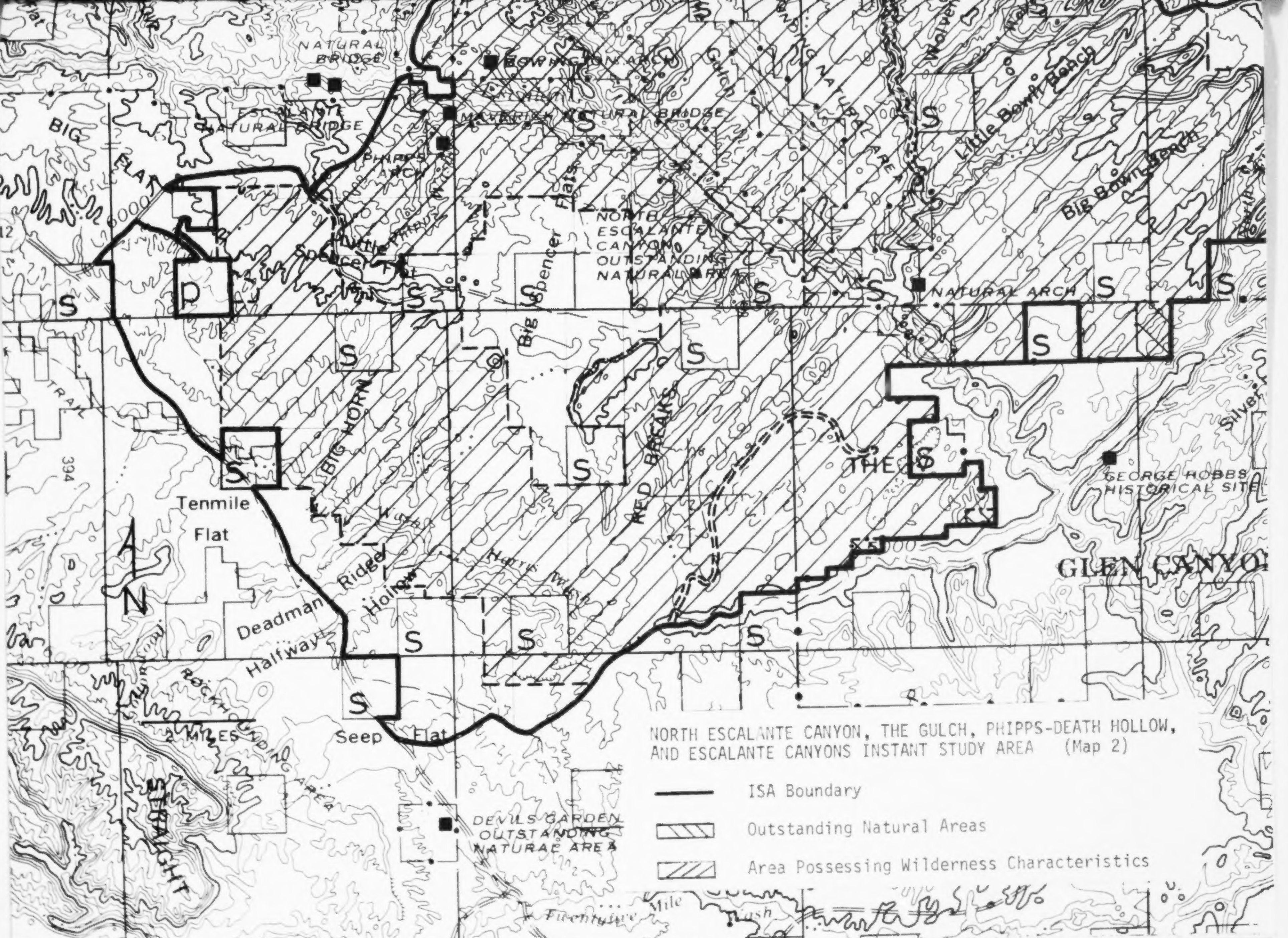
D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The ISA contains many supplemental values. Geological features include natural arches and bridges and sheer canyon walls. The Wolverine Petrified Wood Area contains significant quantities of petrified wood and thunder eggs (iron concretions) can be found on Spencer Flat and the V. Archeological features include pictographs, petroglyphs, granaries, and cave habitation sites. Historical values include the Old Boulder Road. Much of the area received the highest scenery quality rating in the BLM's Visual Resource Management analysis.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Seven comments provided specific information relative to wilderness characteristics. Three comments stated that 131,248 acres possessed the naturalness characteristic. Four comments stated the ISA lacked naturalness or that less than 131,248 acres were natural. Four comments stated the ISA offered outstanding solitude and/or primitive recreation opportunities. Three comments stated the ISA lacked one or both of the outstanding characterisitics.

4. DECISION: 119,725 acres of the ISA do possess wilderness characteristics and qualify for wilderness study.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Most of the imprints of man identified in the comments were located outside the ISA or within areas considered to lack naturalness during the intensive inventory. Other imprints such as fences and water developments are allowable within wilderness study areas. As a result of the comments, the road in Horse Canyon was found to meet the definition of a road in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook and two additional areas in Horse Canyon and the North Fork of Silver Falls Creek were found to contain substantially noticeable imprints. The areas affected by these imprints total 582 acres. The comments indicate the ISA does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation. It is determined that 119,725 acres of the ISA do qualify for wilderness study.


NORTH ESCALANTE CANYON, THE GULCH, PHIPPS-DEATH HOLLOW, AND ESCALANTE CANYONS INSTANT STUDY AREA (Map 1)
ISA Boundary
Outstanding Natural Areas
Area Possessing Wilderness Characteristics
THE GULCH OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA
NORTH ESCALANTE CANYONS OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA
Boulder
Big Bown Bench
Little Bown Bench
Wolverine Bench
King Bench
Halfway Hollow
Horse Canyon
Death Hollow
Steep Creek
Dunnfey Mesa
Long Neck
Sandy Bench
Big Spencer Flats
Natural Bridge


NORTH ESCALANTE CANYON, THE GULCH, PHIPPS-DEATH HOLLOW, AND ESCALANTE CANYONS INSTANT STUDY AREA (Map 2)
ISA Boundary
Outstanding Natural Areas
Area Possessing Wilderness Characteristics
NORTH ESCALANTE CANYON OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA
DEVILS GARDEN OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA
GEORGE HOBBS HISTORICAL SITE
NATURAL ARCH
MAVERICK NATURAL BRIDGE
ESCALANTE NATURAL BRIDGE
PHIPPS ARCH
NATURAL BRIDGE
GLEN CANYON
BIG FLAT
Tenmile Flat
Seep Flat
Deadman Ridge
Halfway Hollow
BIG HORN
RED BREAKS
Big Spencer Flats
Little Spencer Flat
Little Bowns Bench
Big Bowns Bench
Gulch
THE
ROCKHOUNDING AREA
STRAIGHT
2 MILES
N
394

INSTANT STUDY AREA NAME: PHIPPS-DEATH HOLLOW

UNIT ACREAGE 49,941

1. ISA DESCRIPTION: The ISA in Garfield County is located 1 mile east of the town of Escalante between Utah Highway 12 and the Dixie National Forest.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The ISA contains 49,941 acres of public lands and encloses 3,831 acres of State lands. It contains 34,288 acres of the Phipps-Death Hollow Outstanding Natural Area designated December 23, 1970 and 15,653 acres of contiguous public lands. Twelve acres of the designated Outstanding Natural Area are separated from the rest of the Instant Study Area by Utah Highway 12 and have been inventoried as part of the Instant Study Area which contains the North Escalante Canyons and The Gulch Outstanding Natrual Areas. The Instant Study Area with wilderness characteristics contains 42,731 acres of public lands and encloses 2,558 acres of State land. The area is contiguous to the Box-Death Hollow RARE II area which has been formally identified as having wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the ISA appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The Big Flat area south of the Escalante River contains several ways, two powerlines, a reservoir, and a stock tank. The cumulative impact of these intrusions is a signigicant impact on naturalness in this area. The powerlines are most intrusive on Big Flat because of vegetative clearing. The Calf Creek Campground along Utah Highway 12 is a developed campground and cannot be considered as natural. The New Home Bench area in the northeast part of the ISA contains several ways, a road, and an airstrip. Each of these intrusions is considered to be substantially noticeable. A guaging station on the Escalante River about 1 mile east of Escalante was not considered to impact naturalness. House Report 95-540 states that water quantity measuring devices are allowable in a wilderness study area. The size of the public lands area possessing the naturalness characteristic is 42,731 acres. Imprints of man which are substantially noticeable are found on 7,210 acres of public lands.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. SOLITUDE: The ISA offers excellent opportunities to experience solitude because of the size of the area and its topography. Deep, winding canyons provide screening and prevent visitor encoutners. Views in the canyons are generally limited to 0.5-mile or less. The Antone Flat, Slickrock Saddle, and Bowington Bench areas also offer opportunities for solitude since they are isolated geographically by the steep canyon cliffs.

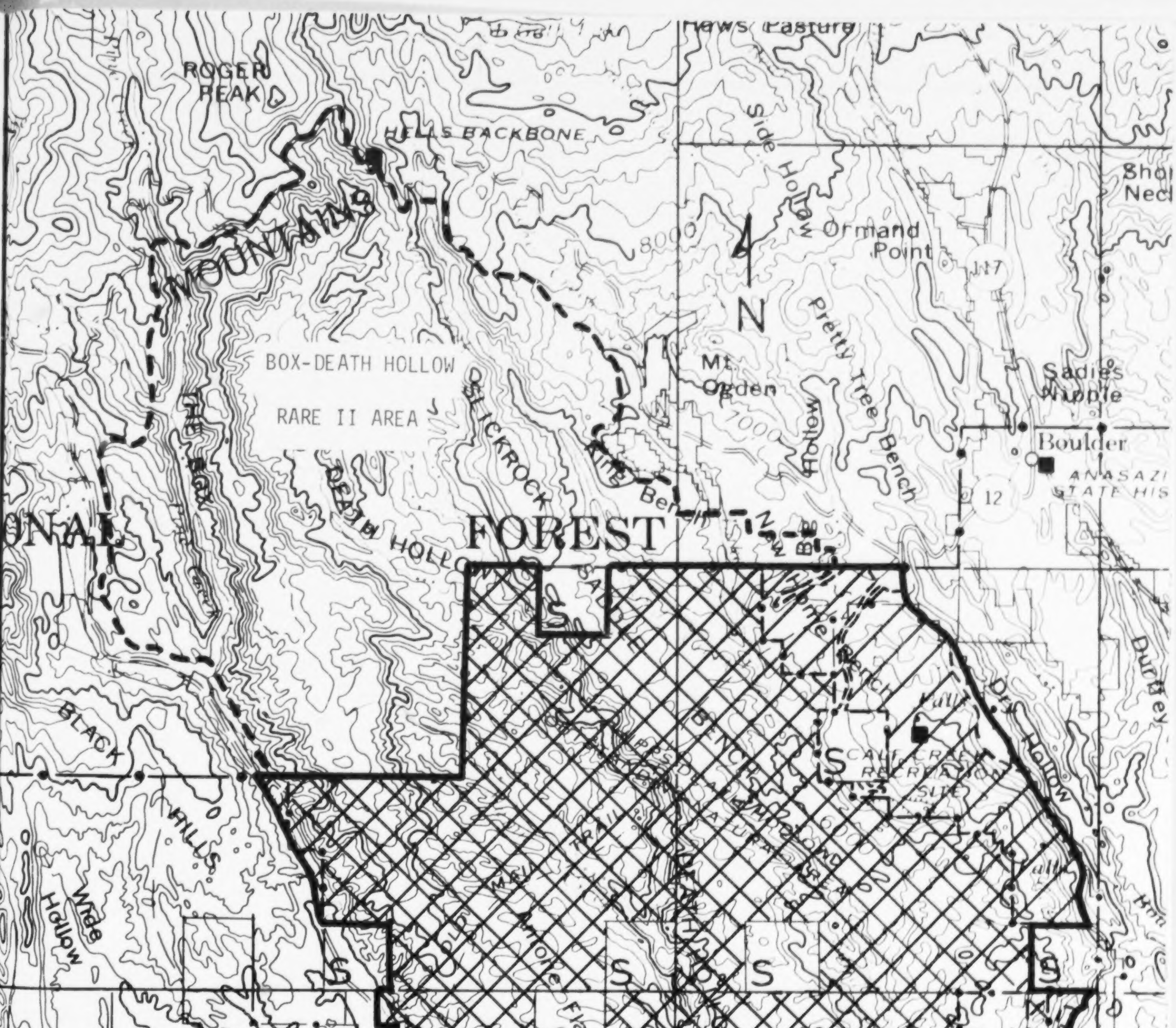
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The rugged topography and lack of vehicle access to most of the ISA virtually insure nonmechanized forms of recreation. The area offers outstanding opportunities for camping, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, and sightseeing for geological, historical, and archaeological features. Fishing opportunities are available in Calf Creek and Death Hollow. A variety of hiking experiences ranging from easy to challenging is available within the area. The recreational opportunities available in the Escalante River canyon system have been widely publicized in books and magazines having nationwide circulation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains geological, scenic, historical, and archaeological values. A detailed description is in Utah Proposed wilderness Study Area, April 1980.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Ten comments provided specific information regarding wilderness characteristics. Five comments stated that 42,731 acres possessed naturalness. Three comments stated that the unit lacked naturalness or that less than 42,731 acres were natural. Seven comments stated the unit offered outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation. Two comments stated the unit lacked the solitude characteristic and one comment stated the unit lacked the primitive recreation characteristic.

4. DECISION: 42,731 acres of this unit are identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Most of the imprints of man identified in the comments were either outside the boundaries of the ISA or within the areas considered to lack naturalness in the intensive inventory. Other imprints, such as trails and historical features are allowable in WSAs. Imprints exterior to the ISA were also determined to not preclude opportunities for solitude within the ISA. Comments disagreed as to whether or not topographic and vegetation screening provide outstanding solitude. The comments also indicated that opportunities for primitive and confined recreation were outstanding.


Haws Pasture
ROGER PEAK
HELLS BACKBONE
MOUNTAINS
BOX-DEATH HOLLOW
RARE II AREA
Ormand Point
N
Mt. Ogden
Pretty Tree Bench
Sadies Nipple
Boulder
ANASAZI STATE HIS
FOREST
ONAL
DEATH HOLLOW
SLICKROCK
BLACK
HILLS
Wide Hollow
Dry Hollow
Durffey
CALF CREEK RECREATION SITE
Antone Flat
NATURAL BRIDGE
Escalante
ESCALANTE PETRIFIED FOREST STATE PARK
Little Desert
BIG FLAT
PHIPPS ARCH
Little Spencer Flat
2 MILES
PHIPPS-DEATH HOLLOW INSTANT STUDY AREA
ISA Boundary
Outstanding Natural Area
Area Possessing Wilderness Characteristics

INSTANT STUDY AREA NAME: ESCALANTE CANYONS (TRACT 1)

UNIT ACREAGE: 806

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The ISA in Garfield County is located about twenty-two miles southeast of the town of Boulder in Silver Falls Canyon.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The ISA contains 806 acres of public lands. It contains 360 acres of the Escalante Canyons Outstanding Natural Area designated on December 23, 1970. It also includes 446 acres of contiguous public lands. The unit is contiguous with lands in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area which have been formally identified as having wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The ISA is natural except for two ways along the northern boundary which are substantially noticeable. Another way in the ISA has rehabilitated naturally and is considered to be substantially unnoticeable. The size of the area in the ISA possessing naturalness is 765 acres. The imprints of man which are substantially noticeable are found on 41 acres.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The small size of the ISA and the lack of topographic and vegetative screening preclude outstanding opportunities for solitude. The topography of the ISA does not allow opportunities for seclusion or isolation. It would be difficult to avoid the sights, sounds, or other evidences of people in the ISA.

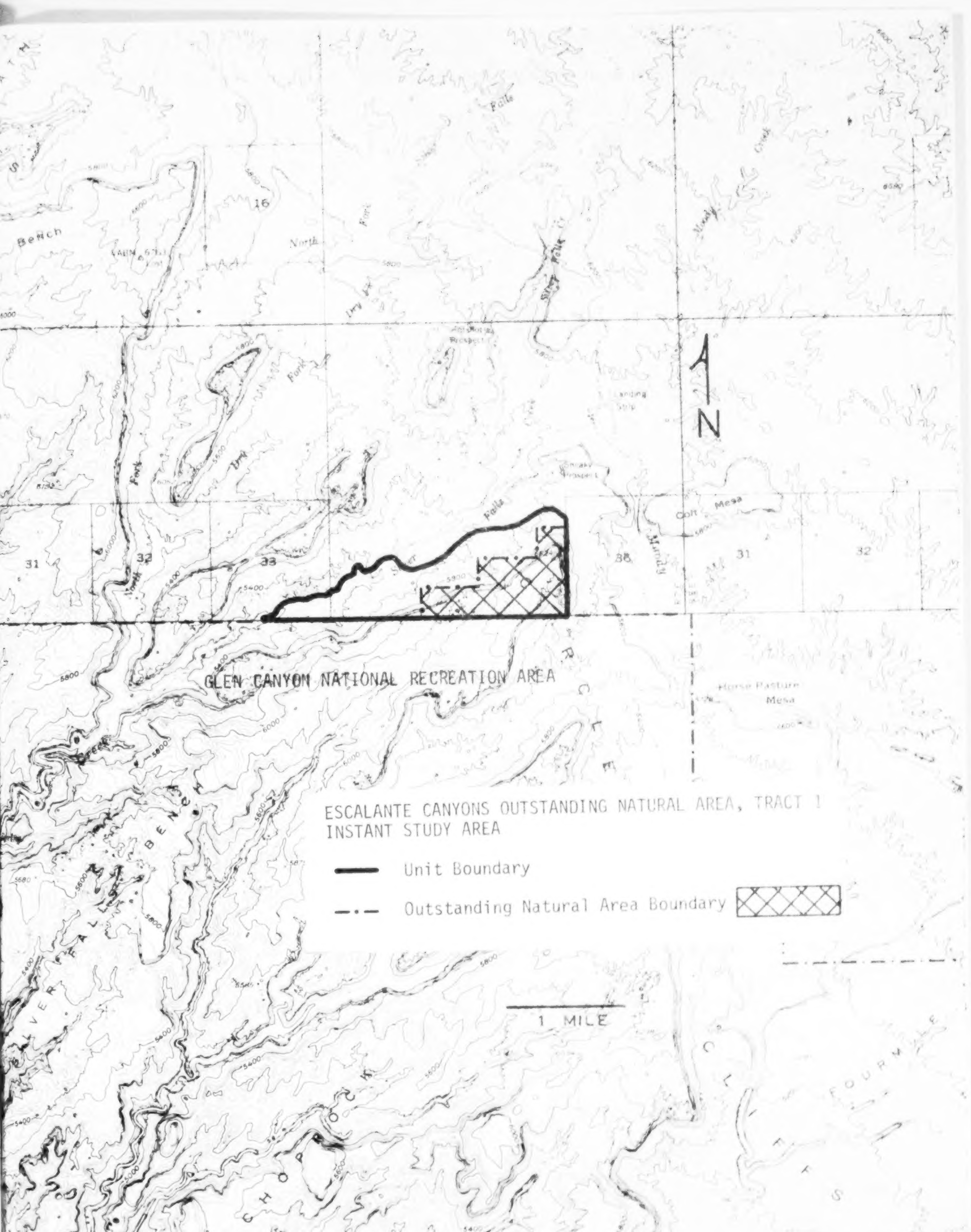
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The ISA does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation. The topography limits movement within the ISA and thus opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation activities are excluded. Although rock climbing could be pursued on the cliffs of Sliver Falls Bench, it would be a dangerous activity because of the instability of the rock structure.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The cliffs of Silver Falls Bench are a part of the Circle Cliffs which were given a high rating for scenery quality in the BLM's Visual Resource Management analysis.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Two comments were submitted regarding wilderness characteristics. Both comments agreed with the BLM proposal that the ISA does not possess wilderness characteristics.

4. DECISION: The ISA does not possess wilderness characteristics.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Both comments agreed with the BLM proposal that the ISA lacks wilderness characteristics. Therefore, there is no reason to change the intensive inventory recommendation.


GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
ESCALANTE CANYONS OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA, TRACT 1
INSTANT STUDY AREA
Unit Boundary
Outstanding Natural Area Boundary
1 MILE
N
Colt Mesa
Horse Pasture Mesa
Landing Strip
North
Fork
Bench
16
31
32
33
31
32

INSTANT STUDY AREA NAME: ESCALANTE CANYONS (TRACT 5)

UNIT ACREAGE: 9,953

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The ISA in Kane County is located about forty miles southeast of the town of Escalante.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The ISA contains 9,953 acres of public lands. It contains 320 acres of the Escalante Canyons Outstanding Natural Area designated December 23, 1970 and 9,633 acres of contiguous public lands. The Instant Study Area with wilderness characteristics contains 760 acres of public lands. The area is contiguous to lands in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area which have been formally identified as having wilderness values.

B. NATURALNESS: The majority of the ISA contains imprints of man which are substantially noticeable. There is a road, a way, a cabin, a corral, and a developed spring in the northwest corner of the ISA. The benchland near Chimney Rock contains several ways which are substantially noticeable. A road and developed spring are present in Hurricane Wash. A cabin and developed spring are located at Willow Tank. There are several ways and a reservoir on Fortymile Ridge. The cumulative impact of these intrusions significantly reduces naturalness over most of the ISA. However, the Escalante Canyons Outstanding Natural Area and some adjacent lands in the northern part of the ISA are in a natural condition. The size of the area possessing the naturalness characteristic is 760 acres. Imprints of man which are substantially noticeable are found on 9,193 acres of public lands.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The portion of Coyote Gulch within the ISA offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The canyon is separated geographically from the remainder of the ISA by the steep canyon walls. Views within the canyon are limited to a quarter mile or less. The topographic screening in the canyon provides opportunities for isolation and seclusion.

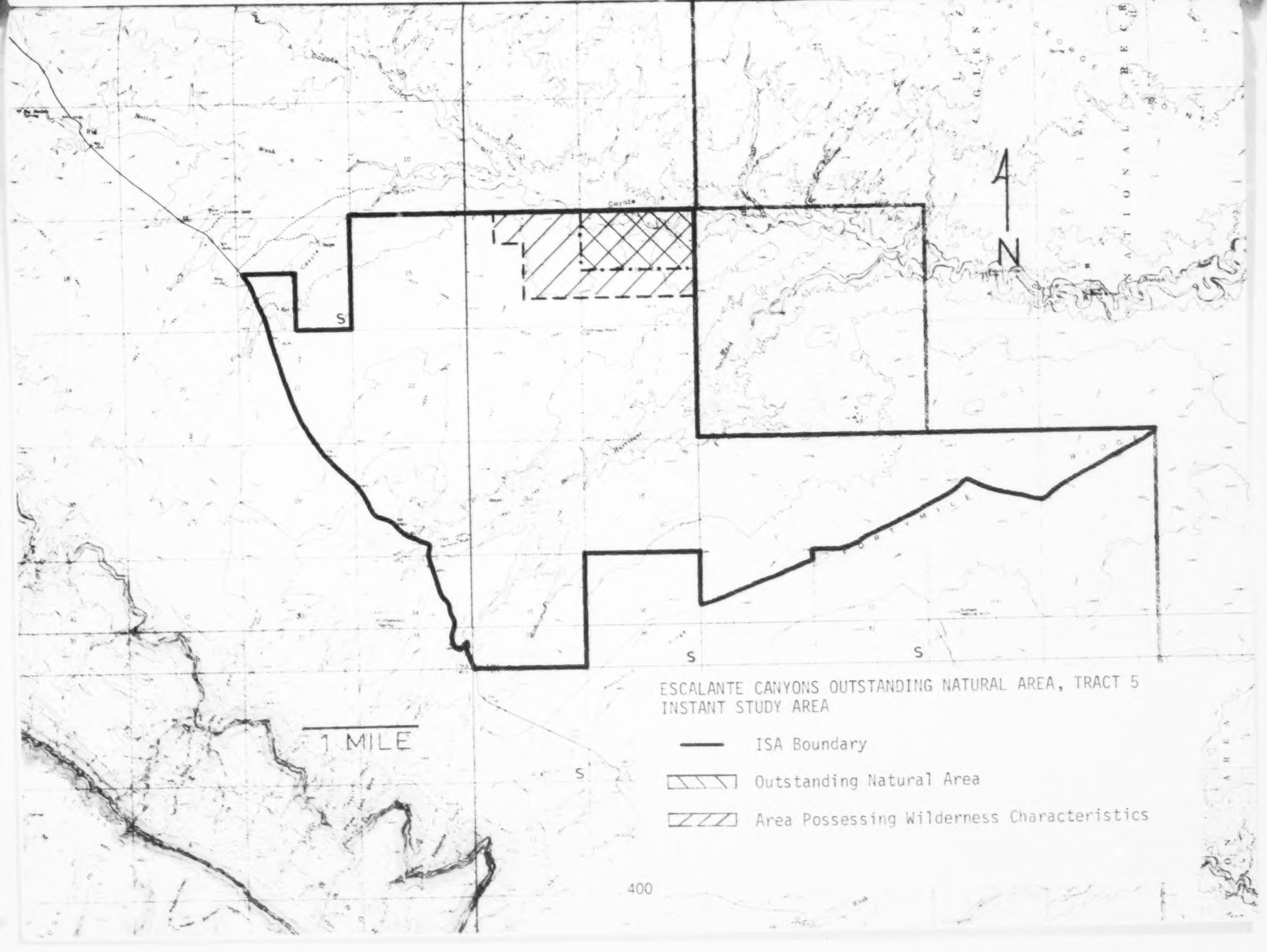
2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: The portion of Coyote Gulch within the ISA offers excellent opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and sightseeing for geological features. These opportunities are outstanding. They are enhanced when considered in conjunction with the opportunities in the portions of Coyote Gulch within the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The recreational opportunities available in the Escalante River canyon system have been widely publicized in books and magazines having nationwide circulation.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Geological features in the ISA include Chimney Rock (a sandstone monolith of about 150 feet) and an alcove-type natural arch in Coyote Gulch. Coyote Gulch is very scenic and offers opportunities for sightseeing.

3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Five comments provided information regarding wilderness characteristics. Four comments agreed with the BLM proposal and one comment stated alternate land uses should preclude a portion of the unit from wilderness study.

4. DECISION: 760 acres of the ISA do possess wilderness characteristics.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: All but one of the comments submitted agreed with the BLM proposal. The one comment which disagreed could not be considered since it cited an alternate land use as the reason for deleting a portion of the ISA. Alternate land uses cannot be considered during the intensive inventory.



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1 MILE
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ESCALANTE CANYONS OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA, TRACT 5
INSTANT STUDY AREA
ISA Boundary
Outstanding Natural Area
Area Possessing Wilderness Characteristics
FORTYMILE RIDGE

INSTANT STUDY AREA NAME: GRAND GULCH PRIMITIVE AREA

ISA ACREAGE: 34,928

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The Grand Gulch Primitive Area became an Instant Study Area (ISA) under the provision of Section 603(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. It lies approximately 25 miles west-southwest of Blanding, and is located entirely in San Juan County. The Grand Gulch ISA is comprised of a complex of canyons. Besides the main canyon, Grand Gulch, tributary canyons include Kane Gulch, Bullet Canyon, Collins Canyon, Coyote Wash, Pine Canyon and Dripping Canyon. This ISA is bounded on its south end by the National Park Service, San Juan proposed wilderness (13,010 acres) in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA). Most of the rest of the ISA is bounded by BLM-administered land.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The ISA contains 34,928 acres of BLM-administered land. No State or private land is contained within its boundaries. It is roughly an extended reversed "S" in shape, with an aggregate length of around 22 miles and a width that varies from less than 1 mile to about 4 miles. The main canyon, Grand Gulch, winds south-westward for a little over 50 miles from its head near the Kane Gulch Ranger Station to its mouth on the San Juan River. Grand Gulch and its tributary canyons constitute a major drainage area into the San Juan River. The major entry and exit points along the ISA are Kane Gulch, Bullet Canyon, Collins Canyon, and the mouth of Grand Gulch on the San Juan River.

B. NATURALNESS: Most of the large area appears substantially natural. Very few imprints of human activities are present. These are limited to some trail improvements in the side canyons, a number of closed roads on rims and near canyon heads, a sign at the mouth of Collins Canyon. There has also been a small amount of ruin stabilization on scattered Anasazi sties. Some of the roads are noticeable, but the majority of imprints are substantially unnoticeable.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The ISA provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The canyons are winding and, in places, are steep-sided to precipitous. The main canyon varies in depth from 400 to 600 feet in the upper portions to well over 700 feet at its head north of the San Juan River. Vegetation ranges from such tree species as pine and an occasional Douglas fir on the north-facing slopes to riparian tree and shrub species in the areas with permanent water. Although the vegetation does not provide continuous screening, the topography provides excellent natural screening, enhancing the opportunities for solitude.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping and a number of other primitive outdoor recreation pursuits are outstanding. These are enhanced by the area's many natural attributes, as well as the area's well known archaeological resources. These opportunities are supplemental by those found in the adjoining GCNRA.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The ISA was extensively occupied by the Anasazi culture from before 500 A.D. to around 1270 A.D. It contains many significant archaeological sites. It also has scenic values.

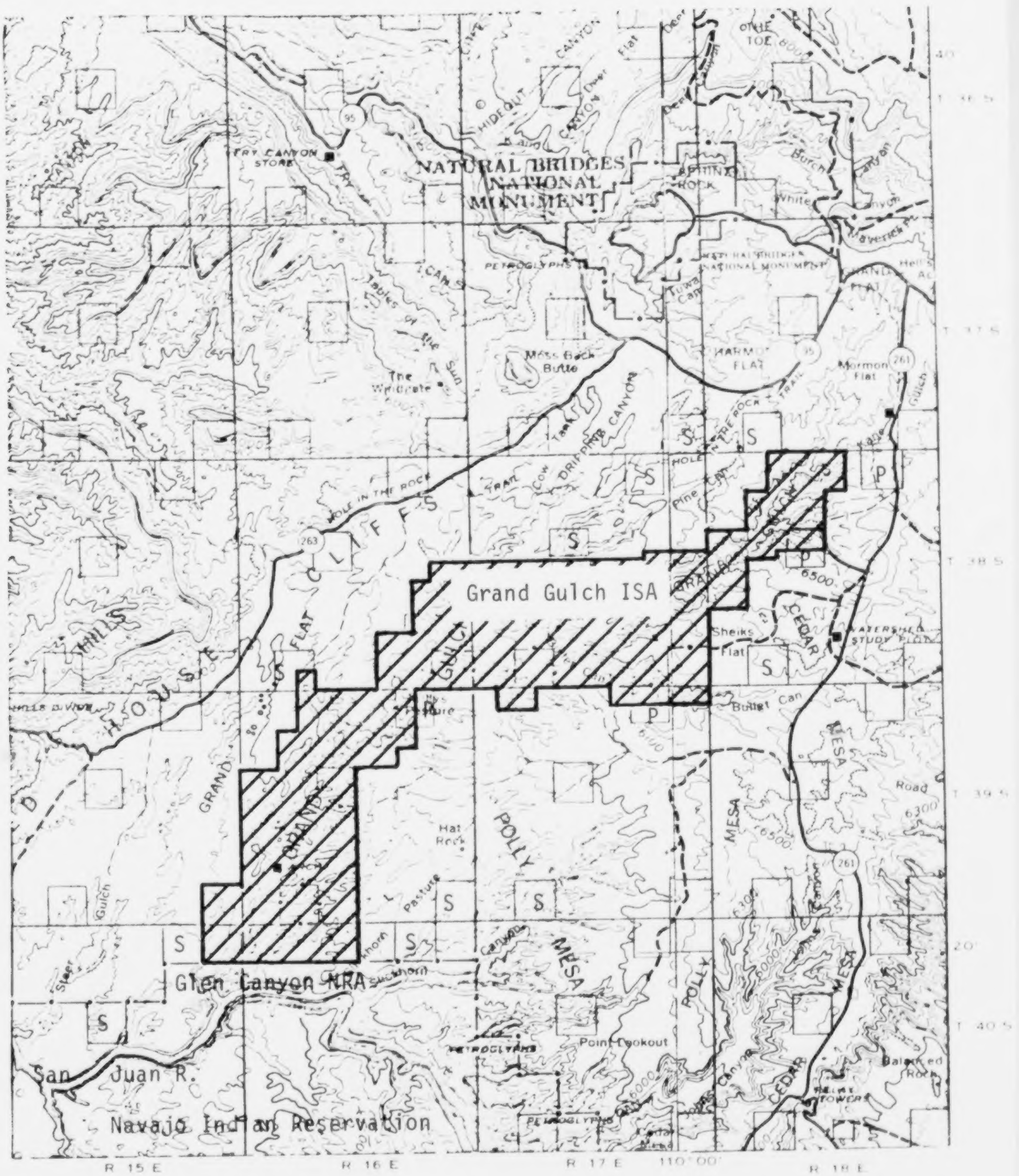
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Utah received 18 comments from 20 individuals and one government agency. Seventeen comments were in favor of WSA designation, and that comment gave no recommendation.

Most comments addressed supplemental values as the archaeology of the area. One comment addressed roads in the area. Comments stated that all or part of the unit was natural, the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude due to topography and size, the area has outstanding opportunities for primitive unconfined recreation, and one stated that the area should be protected by means other than a WSA.

4. DECISION: The original proposal will be implemented. The 34,928 acre Grand Gulch Primitive Area (ISA) unit will be identified as a WSA.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Supplemental values are not a primary criteria for determining WSA suitability and do not affect the proposal. Roads were mentioned but these roads have been closed for seven years and have revegetated to a substantially unnoticeable condition. The area is primarily natural. The area has outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation which are reflected by the comments. During the study phase of the wilderness review, other alternatives will be addressed for the management of the existing ISA.

No site specific information was received to change the original proposed WSA boundary. The original proposed decision is considered to be valid and appropriate.



ISA - GRAND GULCH PRIMITIVE AREA

LEGEND

Unit Boundary (ISA)
Area Containing Wilderness Characteristics
S State Lands
P Private Lands

¼" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

INSTANT STUDY AREA NAME: DARK CANYON PRIMITIVE AREA

ISA ACREAGE: 49,904

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: The Dark Canyon Primitive Area became an Instant Study Area (ISA) under the provisions of Section 603(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. It lies approximately 25 miles west of Monticello, and is located entirely in San Juan County. In addition to Dark Canyon proper, it contains a number of tributary canyons. These include Black Steer Canyon, Young's Canyon, Bowdie Canyon, Gypsum Canyon, Lost Canyon, Lean-to Canyon and Fable Valley. The northern-most portion is adjacent to the Maze proposed wilderness (105,980 acres) of Canyonlands National Park (NP). On the west and northwest, the ISA is bounded by the National Park Service, Dark Canyon proposed wilderness (18,100 acres) in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA). In its southeastern extremity, it is contiguous with the proposed Dark Canyon-Wooden Shoe Wilderness Area in the Manti-LaSal National Forest (NF). It is adjacent to BLM-administered land (Lower Horse Flats) on its south side.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

A. SIZE: The ISA contains 49,904 acres of BLM-administered land. No state or private lands are contained within its boundaries.

The ISA is divided into two portions. The northern portion contains approximately 2,000 acres and is adjacent to both Canyonlands NP and Glen Canyon NRA. It is an irregular area extending about two and a quarter miles east and two miles south of the Park Service boundaries. The remaining acreage lies about two miles to the south, stretching between Glen Canyon NRA and Manti-LaSal NF. It consists of a labyrinth canyon complex occupying an irregular area that extends roughly 16 miles on both the east-west and north-south axis.

B. NATURALNESS: This entire area appears natural. Most of its canyon complex is negotiable only on foot. Evidence of human activity is slight and not noticeable in the canyons that comprise this area.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SOLITUDE: The ISA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. Its winding canyons, towering to 1,400 feet, provide exceptionally good topographic screening. The unit's potential is further augmented by the adjoining National Park Service and U. S. Forest Service proposed wilderness areas, which contain additional attributes.

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, camping and rock scrambling, and a number of other primitive outdoor recreation pursuits are outstanding. These are greatly enhanced by the area's natural qualities and challenging terrain.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The ISA contains archaeologic, scenic, and geologic values. It is also one of the few bighorn sheep habitats.

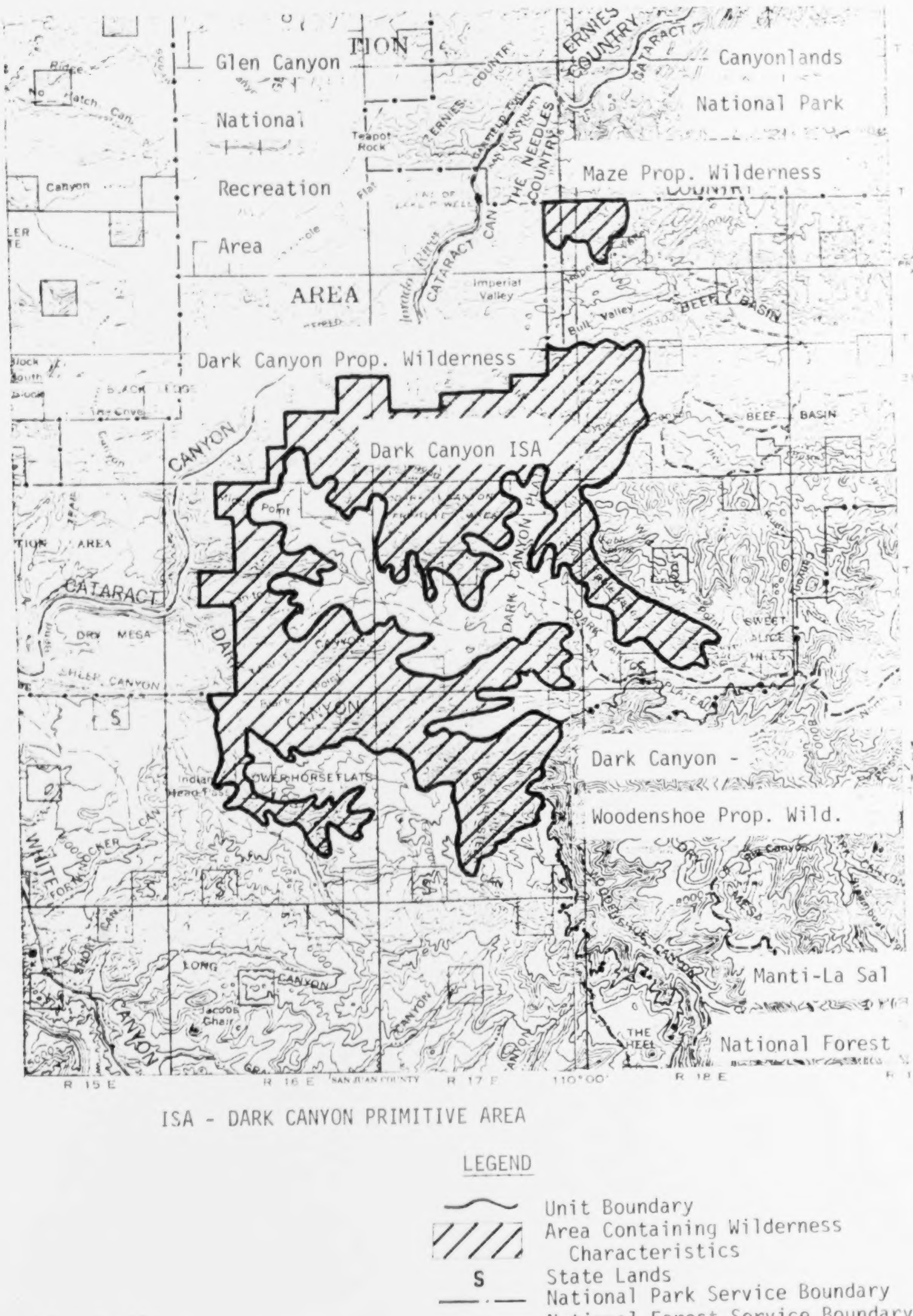
3. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Seventeen comments were received on this unit from 19 individuals and one government agency. Sixteen of the 17 comments favored WSA identification. There were six specific comments and 11 general comments. Of the general comments, ten supported the WSA designation; six of them also supporting the Utah Wilderness Associations' WSA proposals and one gave no recommendation. Of the six specific comments, all were in favor of WSA identification.

A respondent suggested that acreage should be added to the proposal, but did not specify locations. Respondents agreed that the area was natural. Individuals suggested that opportunities for solitude were outstanding due to various factors, such as: size, topography, unique and spectacular opportunities and very few sights of man. Respondents implied that opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation were outstanding, due to the challenging trails, excellent hiking, and availability of water all-year around. Archaeology, geology, wildlife, scenery, flora and fauna, and uniqueness were listed as supplemental values. A respondent suggested that studies should include the three managing agencies for the entire Dark Canyon Complex.

4. DECISION: The original proposal shall be implemented. The 49,904 acre Dark Canyon WSA will be identified.

5. RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Sixteen public comments favored the WSA identification.

Interagency studies would be considered during the wilderness study phase. Since no new site specific information or concerns were introduced to change the original proposal, the unit should be identified as WSA.



ISA - DARK CANYON PRIMITIVE AREA

LEGEND

Unit Boundary
Area Containing Wilderness Characteristics
S State Lands
National Park Service Boundary
National Forest Service Boundary

¼" = 1 mile
MDO-8/80

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